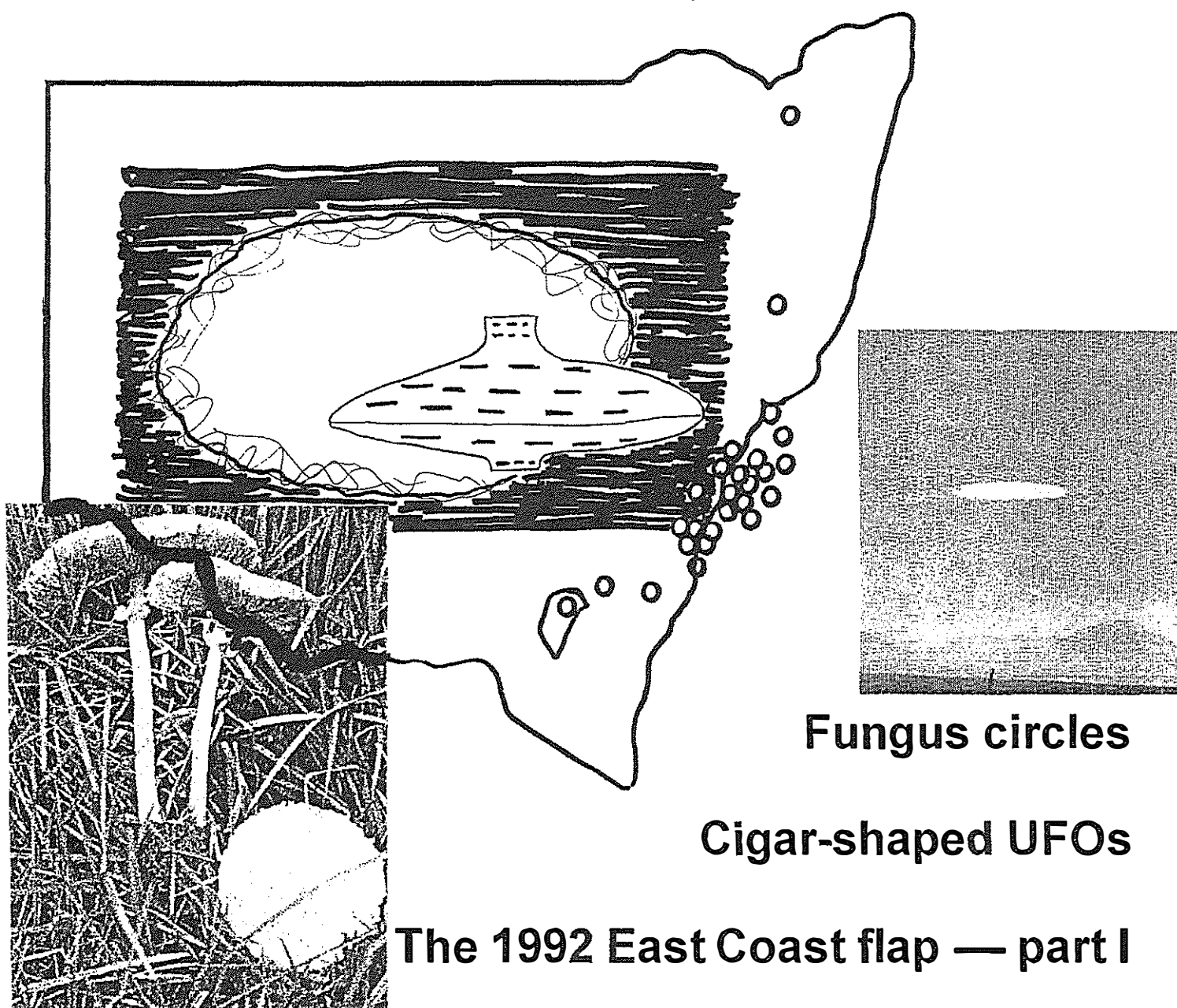


UFO *Reporter*

Quarterly Publication of UFO Research (New South Wales)

Volume 1, Number 2

June 1992



Fungus circles

Cigar-shaped UFOs

The 1992 East Coast flap — part I

UFOs at Collector, Hexham & Kyeemagh

UFO Reporter

Volume 1 Number 2

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Forty years on

Bryan Dickeson

There is a tradition that the modern UFO movement began with Kenneth Arnold's much-publicised sighting of a series of 'flying saucers' over Mount Ranier in Washington State in 1947. However, if you check the record, the UFO movement remained largely undeveloped until another, more-important, incident five years later.

On the Saturday evening of 19 July 1952, a series of 'flying saucers' was picked up by US Air Force radar in the skies above Washington DC. At one time, the objects infringed forbidden air space over the White House itself. Fortunately, the UFOs did not actually land on the White House lawn.

The US Air Force was completely unable to defend the American heartland and itself from these unknown intruders — it was subsequently reported that powerless USAF personnel at nearby Andrews Air Force Base were too shocked and appalled to mount a 'proper' military response. This incident was reported world-wide by news media several days later.

The following week, on the evening of Saturday 26 July, the same objects were picked up over Washington by the same radar screens. On this occasion, USAF jets were despatched to mount a challenge, but their pilots were easily outmanoeuvred by the clearly-visible UFOs.

Although these incidents produced no significant cases for investigation and little 'hard' data, they created a sensation — all major Australian newspapers carried an account of the incidents at the time. The events caused great concern and confusion within official circles, and the US media stirred the public to near hysteria over the ineffectiveness of the USAF.

Surprisingly, very few American scientists joined this particular debate. Finally, astronomer Dr Menzell proposed an explanation, based on the incompetence of Air Force radar personnel, and radar 'ghosting'.

While Menzel's explanations incensed USAF radar technicians, it took much of the heat out of the public debate and eventually became the official version. At that time, not much information was available to the public about new-fangled radar technology so the ghosting argument was essentially one-sided.

Menzel's 'scientific' approach established a precedent for curtailing public enquiry which is still used (the incident

also began a long and distinguished career in UFO debunking for Menzel).

By far the most important side-effects of the Washington incidents were the politicisation of the subject of UFOs and the shrillness of the media's interest.

Before 1952, there were few individuals interested in studying UFOs and these were widely scattered around the world. Many of them were current or ex-World War II Air Force personnel in the USA, Europe, Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand. They exchanged information, ideas, and newspaper clippings on the topic, informally and mostly by letter. The earliest of these investigators on the local scene, Edgar Jarrold, started his investigations in Fairfield Sydney during 1950.

Once the media drew these proto-ufologists into the limelight in 1952, the informal links were firmed, and a series of civilian groups was set up to improve public information on the subject. Groups such as Coral and Jim Lorenzon's newly-formed Aerial Phenomena Re-

Contributions to UFO Reporter (NSW)

We need articles, photographs and cartoons for forthcoming editions of UFO Reporter.

If you think you can help or have something to offer, please contact The Editors, UFOR, PO Box Q95 Queen Victoria Building, Sydney 2000.

Please note:

- ☐ If you have only recently become a member of UFOR(NSW) and have still not received your first issue of *UFO Reporter*, please contact us for a copy — we may have unintentionally overlooked you.
- ☐ If your name or address has changed, please let us know so we can update our mailing list.

search Organisation flourished (APRO — the first American UFO investigation group begun in Wisconsin, in January 1952).

Two similar civilian groups began in New South Wales in 1952, and Air Flight Sergeant

lent local authority, to make a proper assessment of the UFO phenomenon.

However, this view quickly became complicated. Air Forces just did not want to get involved in any public or political debate

Harold Fulton helped organise the first meeting of Civilian Saucer Investigation (CSI) on 13 October 1952 at Whenuapai Air Force Base, in New Zealand. Soon, these local groups became part of a world-wide network.

Most of the early flying saucer organisations assumed that their main role was to help the USAF, or the RAAF, or the equivalent

— that was not seen as being one of their functions. It took almost 20 years for UFO groups to realise this and move from their quasi-Air Force role. (Some groups are still trying to provide the UFO investigation the US Air Force seems incapable of providing, or unwilling to provide.)

Forty years after the Washington DC radar-visual sightings, the UFO movement exhibits most of the important patterns created at that time — difficult relations with reluctant air force and aviation authorities, an inability to get mainstream scientists involved in any meaningful way, and an inability to handle rabid media interests — all while trying to properly inform the public.

The more things change, the more they stay the same. ☐

UFOR(NSW) UFO Hotline, Sydney (02) 588 6058

UFOR(NSW) has set up a UFO telephone hotline for people wishing to report their UFO sightings. The idea is to have members of the public contact UFOR as soon as possible with their sighting details, so we can make a prompt and proper investigation.

The phone started ringing several months before the service was actually listed in the 1992 Sydney telephone directory, at around the time the UFO flap along NSW's Central Coast began!

The UFO hotline should receive around 20 calls per week from the New South Wales region (some 900–1000 per year). Forty per cent of these (350–400 per year) will need further investigation, and 30 to 40 a year will require intense investigation. This means that we have work for about 12 to 15 part-time investigators.

- ☐ The current team of six or seven investigators is hard-pushed to keep up with the requirements (and there are delays investigating and publishing the results)
- ☐ On 12 December 1992 UFOR(NSW) will be running a one-day introductory course for 15–20 aspiring investigators. The cost will be minimal to cover photocopying costs for the manual only (\$55 for members, \$85 for non-members). This course will be advertised soon and should greatly expand the current investigations team. ☐

Letter to the Editors

The editors have received a letter from Bill Chalker stressing how his public address was misreported in the very first issue of UFO Reporter (UFO Reality; Ground Marks and other Physical Evidence by Bill Chalker, presented at The UFO Mystery seminar held at the Sebel Town House, Sydney in September 1991). We print Bill's corrections in full, as follows:

...I must admit I was not happy to see my name present on the index page, as if I had contributed an article. Your disclaimer on page 5 is all very well, but the way you have presented the article, along with all the others in your *UFO Mystery* conference report, gives the casual reader the impression the lecturers have written the reports. Irrespective of this, I am not happy to be saddled with the inaccuracies which have crept into your account of my lecture. As a technical writer I would have expected better from you.

For your information here are my corrections on your account of my lecture (*UFO Reporter*, #1, pages 10-12)

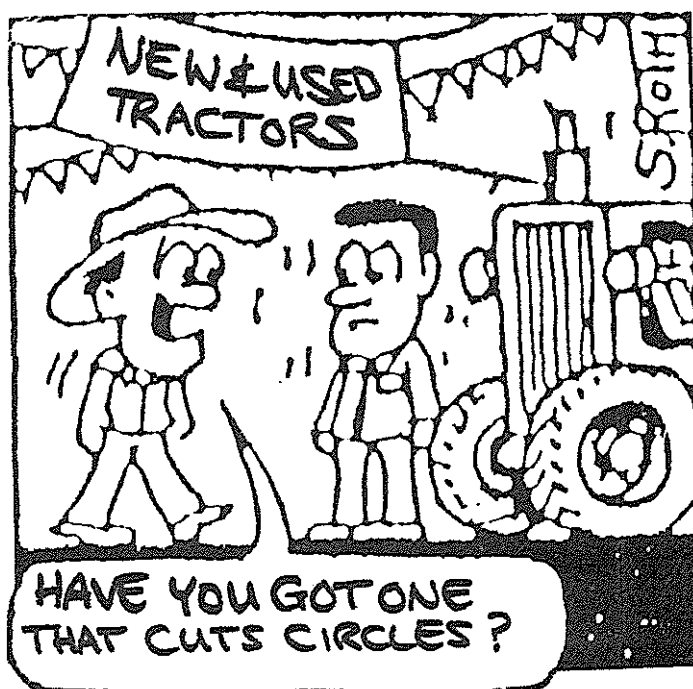
- 1 Linetwo. Should be 1969 not 1971
- 2 Bottom paragraph, col 1, pg 10. The 'Eden' witnesses were not 'three RAAF personnel', nor was the case presented as an example of RAAF lack of interest! It has no RAAF connection. Plus the account, contrary to your characterisation, is extremely detailed and there was very extensive documentation and follow-up, particularly of the movie footage taken! The film was

also subjected to computer enhancement.

- 3 Bottom paragraph col 1, pg 11. 'During a 1987 conversation with GEPAN personnel in the USA some years ago ...' [sic!]
- 4 Column 2 pg. 11. The Woolgoolga case occurred in 1970 not 1965! The 'landing' did not occur on the beach — instead it took place in bushland behind the beach area! A truck driver was involved not a car driver! The case involved more than 'a spotlight' — an object was observed.
- 5 The Bent Headlight case — col 2, pg 11. Occurred in 1966 not 1967. An impression was found — not 'some impressions'.
- 6 Ibid — the Horseshoe Lagoon is south of Tully, not 'at Tully'.
- 7 Pg. 12 — re the Rosedale case — a 10,000 gallon tank, not 1,000 gallon was involved. A 'cone of light' was not in-

volved. You may have confused this with a 'cone of silt' that was found in the largely empty tank. The 'ring' found was a lot closer than about 'one quarter of a mile' — maybe here you were confusing the approximate distance of the caretaker's house from the site! Your characterisation of the event suggests a very vague connection between a UFO and a ground trace. The main strength in this case is that the connection is very strong and explicit — a long duration landing — one of the best in Australia, with a well-defined, apparently structured object involved! I may seem a little pedantic, but I am used to today's inaccuracies becoming tomorrow's 'facts'!

These errors are regretted and Bryan Dickeson apologises to Mr Chalker for any distress his inaccuracies may have caused. □



Cigar-shaped UFO and three small discs at Hexham, December 1984

Frank Sinclair and Coralee Vickery

This incident was reported to UFOR(NSW) by Mrs L of Blacksmiths NSW, who is unable to remember the day or date exactly.

One December morning between Christmas Day and New Year in December 1984, Mr and Mrs L were camping in a tent at the Ponderosa Caravan Park. This park is situated just east of the Pacific Highway at Hexham NSW, near the Hexham Bridge across the Hunter River ($32^{\circ} 49' 47''$ S, $151^{\circ} 41' 39''$ E).

On going outside . . . she observed a large, cigar-shaped object with a brilliant white light at the front

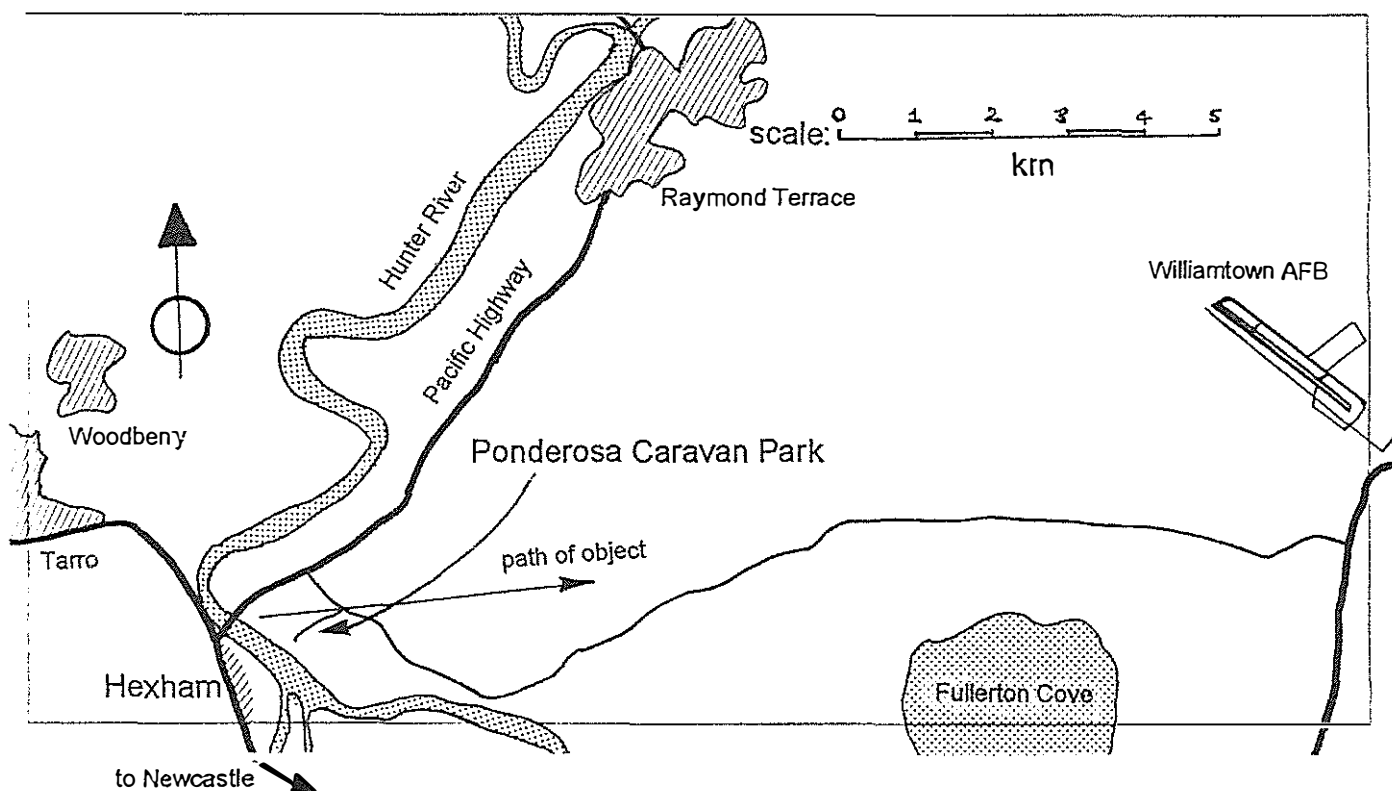
At about 0230 hours Mr L woke her up. He was standing outside their tent and said to her 'put your head out here and see what you think of this lot'.

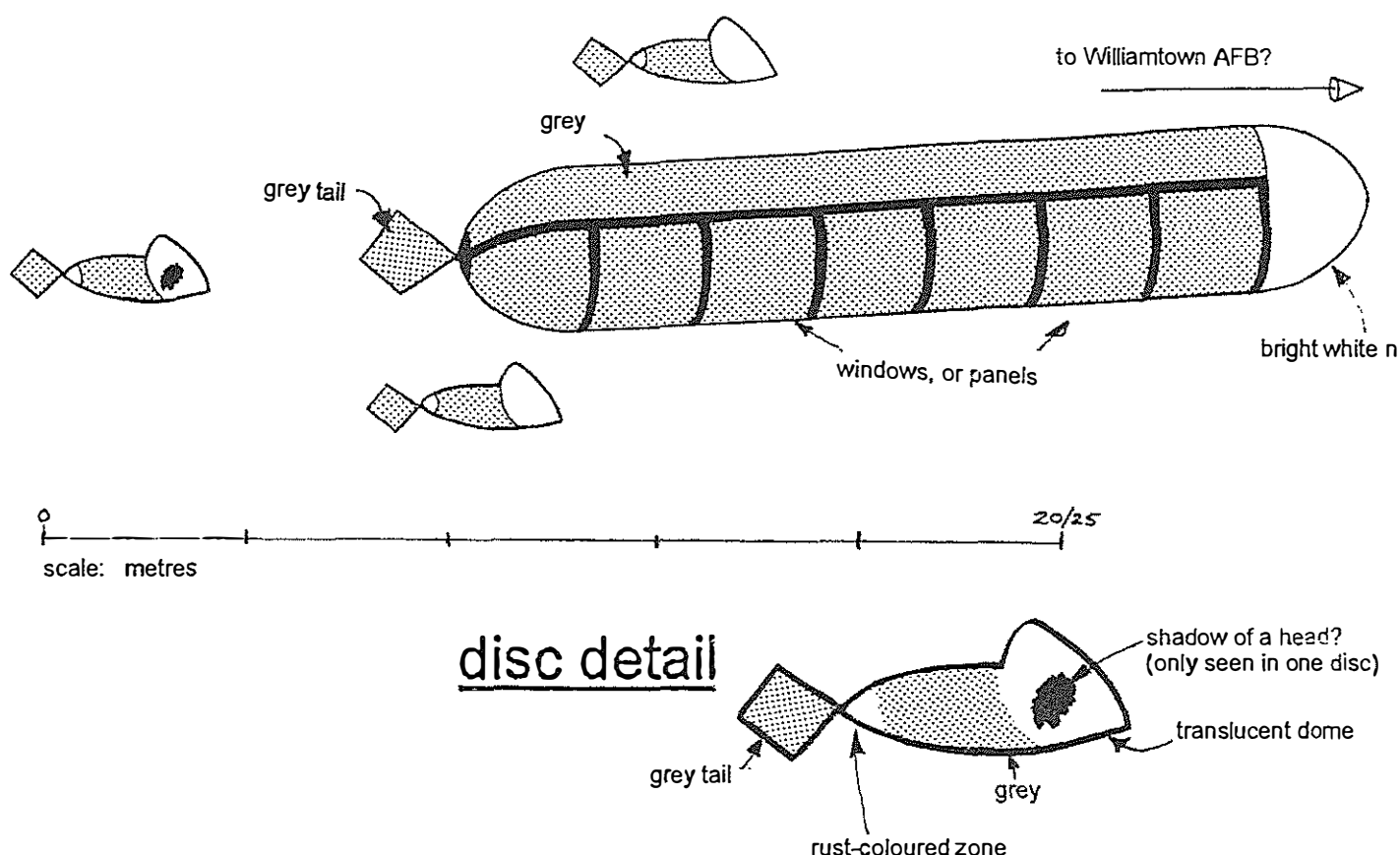
On going outside of the tent she observed a large, cigar-shaped object with a brilliant white light at the front. It was coming towards them very slowly from

the direction of the caravan park entrance (travelling from the west-south-west to east-north-east). The front light seemed larger than the full moon and lit up all of the caravan park. Mrs L is uncertain of the object's actual size — 'bigger than a bus' — probably 20-25 metres long.

The cigar had windows along the side. These seemed to be 'closed' and the same grey colour as the rest of the object.

About five minutes later, three small disc-shaped objects (3-4 metres across) flew into view moving towards the object. They travelled very quickly ('like lightning'), zigzagging to join the larger cigar. Each disc was grey, but showed an orange or rust-coloured area towards the rear of the disk body, before a tail fin. One of the discs stationed itself at the





The Hexham UFO, based on Mrs L's drawing.

rear of the cigar and the other two stationed themselves either side of the cigar (see diagram).

Shortly afterwards, the two discs either side of the cigar swapped sides, reforming at the back of the cigar, this time behind the third disc. The discs flew in this formation behind the cigar, so that it looked as if it had 'a tail'.

Mrs L said that she saw what seemed to be a shadow or outline of a head with a helmet on in one of the smaller discs, but is a little unsure of this.

When first observed, the cigar was approximately at a 45 degree angle from where she was standing. It moved to a position almost overhead and was quite low — she estimated the objects to be 60–90 metres high ('200–300 feet'). The cigar was emitting a low, fluctuating humming noise, which rose and fell in

pitch. It seemed to be travelling towards the Williamtown Air Force Base, some 13.5 km to the east.

Mrs L did not stay outside to see the objects move out of sight. Her husband became concerned, so they went back to bed inside the tent. Mrs L said that she was still wide awake and stated to her husband 'What's the use of me lying down, I'm not tired'. However, she said 'the next thing, bang, I went straight to sleep'.

Since this sighting Mrs L has read as much UFO material as she can find, and has been trying to find out more. □

Sadly, Mrs L died recently — we are extremely fortunate to have her report for our files and wish to offer our condolences to her family and friends.

Agnes Banks fungus circle, April 1992

Bryan Dickeson

A circular pattern in grass at Agnes Banks west of Sydney was reported to UFOR(NSW) during April 1992 as a possible crop circle. After checking the site, I found that the circle was most probably due to a fungus (a species of Amanita). The investigation of that circle, located at 33°37'46" S, 150°41'12" E, is described here — other UFO investigators may find the methodology used helpful when investigating possible UFO ground traces.

An Agnes Banks resident, S, first noticed an unusual circle of long grass on his property on Sunday 5 April 1992 at around 1000 hrs.

S's family have been on their property for over 9 years — a small holding on the very fertile eastern flood plain of the Nepean River. Although he had never cultivated this land, or run any of his own stock on the property, S had usually allowed a neighbour to graze a few horses on the paddocks immediately around the house to keep the grass down.

S decided to put the property on the market on a trial basis around Christmas 1991. The horses had been removed and the grass allowed to grow. The grass was some 35–50 cm long when the circular formation was first noticed.

After returning from an interstate trip, S had been approached by his neighbour's son who offered to mow the 8–10 weeks growth of grass — a mixture of paspalum (*Paspalum dilatatum*), and kikuyu grass (*Pennisetum clandestinum*).

The area near where the circle was found contained a few surveyor's pegs, positioned there previously when S had toyed with the idea of building a barn. S had asked the neighbour's son not to disturb the pegs and had joined the youth on the agricultural mower to point out where the pegs were located. Some of the paddock perimeter had already been mown by this stage, when S noticed something unusual towards the centre of the paddock west of the barn site. A dark green circle of grass ap-

peared to have been swirled and flattened; the grass had fallen over and looked brownish.

S remembered that unusual crop circles had been reported from the Northern Hemisphere and thought that this formation might be a similar occurrence. He immediately stopped all further mowing.

The neighbour's son had not noticed anything peculiar about the grass at the

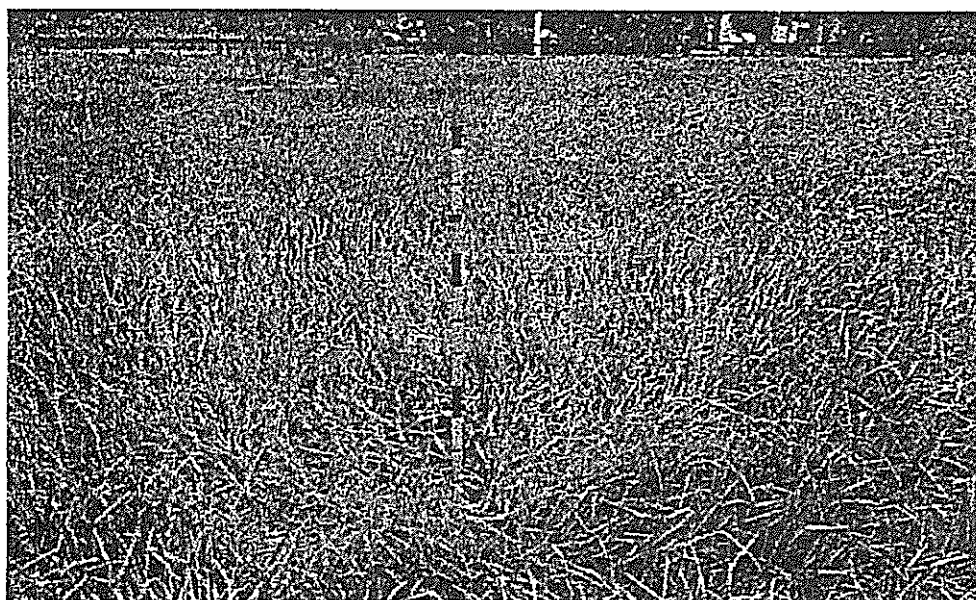


Figure 1: Photo of the circle, taken on 19 April 1992, showing 'browned' grass in centre. (Stick marked at 100 mm intervals.)

time. S checked the immediate vicinity for any other circles, but had only found the one formation. He had not looked in nearby paddocks or on neighbouring properties. However, S did find several arcs and part-ovals of the darker green grass nearby in the same paddock.

About a week and a half after the discovery, S contacted UFOR(NSW) — one of the very first calls we received on our UFOR(NSW) telephone 'hotline'. S had initially contacted the RAAF at nearby Richmond Air Force base (9 km north-east of the circle) amongst others, and the site had been inspected by about a dozen individuals before we got to it on Easter Sunday morning (19 April 1992). Air Force personnel had not investigated the site. S had also been to Colin Andrews' *Crop Circles* lecture in Sydney on 15 April 1992 and told several people there about his circle.

UFOR's interests

For my part I felt I could be looking at six possible causes for the formation. The main criteria for each of these manifestations are described as follows (in order from the most likely to the least likely):

- 1 Fungus, slime moulds, or naturally-occurring micro-organisms in the soil — effects to look for include possible localised grass discolouration or effects on rates of grass growth (especially in uncultivated paddocks); a white, yellow or orange fibrous mass (mycelia, hyphae, or mycorrhiza) on plant roots or in soil below the markings; fruiting bodies (fairy rings of toadstools or mushrooms); poorly-defined edges to the formation; similar circles or part-circles nearby; an 'oiliness' on lower grass stems or in soggy soil (for slime moulds); affected plants may be dead or sickly, and in long grass may show random-pattern flattening caused by wind gusts
- 2 Willy-willy — swirling wind effects include flattened or overturned grass-stems also with a swirling pattern (and possibly some radial sym-

metry); poorly-defined edges to the formation; evidence of windblown damage around or leading to or from the formation

- 3 A hoax — 'home-made' or man-made effects, crushed/damaged/dying/dead plant stems; reasonably well-defined edges (possibly with a central peghole); crude attempts to pattern flattened plant stems; possible use/smell of weed-killers, flammable materials or burning
- 4 'Simple' crop circle — (as reported from the UK and USA) very well-defined edges; complex overlaid patterning of plant stems (possibly with a multi-layered fine structure); possible central 'cage' of interwoven/plaited plant stems; stems bent at the third internode, green

Materials taken on the field trip

- ☐ camera and extra film
- ☐ writing paper, pens, pencils
- ☐ map of the area, magnetic compass*
- ☐ binoculars* (to help sight local landmarks to locate site)
- ☐ magnifying glass
- ☐ 1.6m measuring stick (marked at 100mm intervals)
- ☐ measuring tape, 300 mm ruler
- ☐ microscope, microscope tool set (incl. methyl violet stain)
- ☐ 2 litre bottle of water
- ☐ small plastic water bottle (fine nozzle)
- ☐ methylated spirits
- ☐ plastic bags and ties (several sizes — for soil/plant samples)
- ☐ stick-on labels (lots), waterproof labelling pens
- ☐ masking tape, sticky tape, carton closure tape
- ☐ paper towels/tissues
- ☐ gumboots*, fold-up table, 2 plastic milk crates
- ☐ 2 plastic rubbish bags, 2 old newspapers
- ☐ garden spade, garden trowel
- ☐ 3 teaspoons, sharp knife, razorblades
- ☐ preparation board (200 x 300mm)
- ☐ scissors*

* indicates items not actually used on this particular occasion

- plants intrinsically undamaged and resuming normal growth. Possibly located near military establishments (nearby Richmond Air Force Base?)
- 5 UFO landing site — (very rare) swirled and/or flattened plants; possible ground indentations; possible scorching and/or 'powder burns'; possibly dead or dying plants; possible magnetic/radiation effects (electromagnetism or radio-activity)
 - 6 Plasma vortex — (an unconfirmed phenomenon) possibly well-defined edges; possible interweaving of plant stems.

Some browned grass blades were still visible where the tall grass had fallen over exposing their lower, older stalk bases—nothing unusual there; the grass within the circle was very much alive. The 'flattened' effect of the top-pled grass had no regular swirled pattern to it (that is, it was random).

Generally, the circle area looked like any of several fungus circles in long grass on uncultivated pasture that I had investigated previously.

To confirm this possibility, I looked for similar 'fairy rings' or fairy ring fragments nearby (see box next page). There were two large arcs of the darker kikuyu

grass within fifteen metres of S's circle. Furthermore, both arcs had giant white toadstools about 25 cm tall growing within them! S told me these toadstools had only developed in the paddock over the last few days.

There were no toadstools in the circle itself, and to be absolutely certain S's circle was a fairy ring formation, I tried to find other traces of the fungus from the circle itself.

I took soil samples from about 5 cm below the surface at four points inside and

outside S's circle along an extended radius, also soil samples from two nearby toadstool arcs (one in mostly kikuyu grass, the other a less well-defined arc of mostly paspalum) and checked them with a magnifying glass.

None of the soil samples showed any obvious signs of the cobwebby, root-like hyphae typical of fungus. This was a bit mystifying. Stained slides of soil samples from within the circle failed to show any signs of hyphae either.

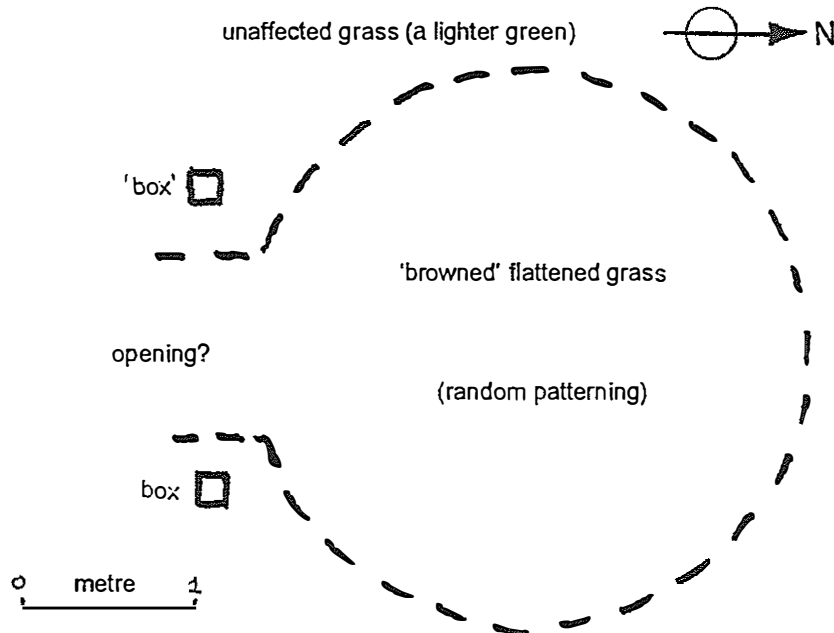


Figure 2: How the circle probably looked on 5 April 1992.

By the time I got to the circle on 19 April, its edges were not well-defined and the paddock grasses had grown longer, from 45 to 60 cm (see Figure 1).

I saw a slightly dished circle of darker kikuyu grass about 4 metres across, with shorter grass in the centre. The edges were indistinct, and a 'box-shaped depression' (as reported by S) on the south side of the circle was no longer clearly evident — two 'holes' first noticed in the grass either side of this box had been overgrown (see Figure 2, drawn from S's account).

None of the kikuyu grass samples showed the tough surface roots (or rhizomes) I usually associate with this grass, just fibrous roots. This was probably because of the high fertility of the local soil. Rhizomes usually result if the soil is poor, or if the grass is kept mown low (that is, if the plants are stressed).

Checking the roots of kikuyu plants taken from within both the circle and the toadstool arcs, I found that their fibrous root formation was extremely stunted, although the densely-tufting plant stems and leaves seemed perfectly healthy. The plants had most probably blown over in the slightest wind because their stunted roots were mechanically insufficient to support the tall, fast-growing plants above. By comparison, the paspalum grass showed extensive healthy roots, stems, and leaves, and had not blown over.

Looking closer at the stunted kikuyu roots under the microscope (150x) I could see the roots included fungal hyphae. The fungus had taken the form of a mycorrhiza, invading the kikuyu root tissues in a symbiotic relationship (usually beneficial to both plant and fungus — both species swap nutrients, minerals and photosynthesised materials). Such mycorrhizas can supplant the root hairs in the host plant,

Fungus circles and fairy rings

A fungus can develop from a single, microscopic spore. Under ideal conditions, a single fungus spore can grow radially outwards through the *nutrient medium* (this can be liquid, soil, or organic matter such as leaf litter), as a multiplying series of thin threads called *hyphae*. When viewed in two dimensions (such as on the surface of the ground), the fungus will appear to form an ever-widening circle — behind it, the nutrient medium has been depleted of food useful to the fungus.

From time to time, when soil and air conditions are right, the fungal ring will 'fruit', forming a series of toadstools called a *fairy ring*. Provided the ground is left uncultivated, the fungal ring will continue indefinitely. Some fungus rings are many decades, possibly centuries old. Others are vast and have been found underlying entire forests in North America (these examples form the biggest living organisms known on the planet, and may be thousands of years old).

If a fungus ring strikes a barrier, such as a rock or a patch of soil with low nutrients, it slows or stops expanding at that point. The original circle is broken, but an arc of fungus will continue to grow. If one ring meets another they may merge — their combined geometries can form a very complex series of arcs and lines. □

thickening or shortening the normal root system. They routinely produce other subtle effects, such as changes of colour in foliage.



Toadstools (25cm tall) taken from arcs close to the circle .

Checking on the fungus itself — this should be quite easy to identify from the fruiting bodies, or toadstools. The toadstools had long white stems with wide, flat caps and white to pinkish-white gills (see picture). They looked very similar to *Amanita ochraphylla* which is a large toadstool usually found in open forest leaf litters and humus along the east coast of Australia. (Note: Many of the *Amanita* are very poisonous, so take great care when handling toadstools of any kind.)

It should also be noted that the native fungi of Australia are not fully documented — new species are still being found and described.

However, the location was unusual for *Amanita ochraphylla* — an exposed paddock, and not open forest or woodland. The light, fertile soil on this site is a chocolatey-brown colour and seems to be a mix of sand and peaty (brown), organic material — it has a very high humus content. I could only presume that this abundance of organic matter was sufficient for *Amanita* to grow. Fungus are very adaptable species and the fungus could be a variety of *Amanita ochraphylla* — I could not fully confirm this (however, if time had permitted. I could have submitted samples to the Australian Museum for identification). □

Crop circle update — Australia and New Zealand

The *Melbourne Age* of 31 December 1991 reported that a Victorian farmer had found six crop circles on his property within the previous month.

The farmer had thought the first circle was a hoax, but after finding five more in nearby paddocks, he called in neighbours to take a closer look. One farmer, who had found similar circles on her farm at Turriff in 1989, put him in touch with British crop circle researcher Colin Andrews (Andrews had recently visited Australia).

The 1991 crop circles varied from 2 to 3.5 metres in diameter; one large oval is 6.5 metres across.

Crop circles have also been reported about 20 kilometres away near Hopetoun, and there is possibly a third occurrence near Beulah.

(Thanks to Mark Moravec, Anomalies Research Centre, for this information.) □

In New Zealand circle-watchers have been less fortunate. Two crop circles found on mid-Canterbury farms in the South Island are now known to be hoaxes.

Wheat heads had been flattened anticlockwise into neat circles 20 metres across. One had an outside circle. After being 'discovered', the circles were shown on national television.

The circles had been investigated by some local UFO investigators and skeptical meteorologists.

Two agricultural contractors owned up, saying they 'had nothing better to do on a Tuesday night'. The men got the idea after a recent overseas television program about similar circles in England.

As with hoaxes in England, the two men had walked down 'tram lines' in the paddocks and used a ski pole, a 2-metre T-shaped piece of wood and length of rope.

The rope was tied to the pole and the wood. One man held the pole while the other walked around with the T-shaped wood. The rope cleared the crops so that it did not flatten the grass unnecessarily. Each circle took about half an hour to make.

(Thanks to Prudence Buttery of UPERS, Christchurch, and Mrs P Dickeson, Timaru.) □

In a recent conversation with a member of the Australian Air Force, one UFO investigator was told that numbers of circles had been reported in native grasslands in the Australian Far North during the early 1980s. These had been found during normal reconnaissance flights operated by the RAAF.

No details were provided as to how fully these markings had been investigated.

Do any UFO investigators out there have any information about these circles? □

Cloud-cigars and cigar-shaped UFOs

Paul Sowiak-Rudej

This report was developed from a talk given to UFOR (NSW) members on 9 February 1992. Paul is a Land Economist and has been a UFO investigator for 20 years.

From reports provided us by observers, we know that UFOs come in all shapes and sizes. A summary of 475 incidents filed with the Australian Centre for UFO Studies (ACUFOS) up to 1980 classified UFO sightings into the following major shape categories:

- ☐ 29% were said to be spherical
- ☐ 19% were point sources (like stars or planets)
- ☐ 12% were elliptical
- ☐ 9% were cigar-shaped

A large number of UFO reports are cylindrical or cigar-shaped.

I was surprised to find that cigar-shaped objects have attracted much attention in the UFO literature throughout the history of this subject. Cigars were very prominent during the mid-1960s and remain a significant part of all ACUFOS sightings. Furthermore, eyewitness accounts frequently mention that the slower-moving cigar-shaped UFOs produce a distinctive vapour trail.

Frenchman Gene Plantier's theory from the 1950s proposes that all UFOs are propelled by a field of force. When travelling in a straight line at high speed, this force field drags along the surrounding air at a rate inversely proportional to the square of the distance from the craft. That is, the air nearest the UFO is carried along fastest. As the UFO moves through the air, a compressed cushion of air develops in front of the craft. At great speeds this zone of compressed air becomes heated, ionises, and incandesces.

Plantier proposed that for cigar-shaped UFOs, this motive power is con-

centrated at each end of the cylinder. During movement, these end points incandesce and produce an elliptical-shaped zone of light overall, or a ball of light at very high speed. The air behind the moving cigar is rarified and cools quickly leaving a trail of condensed water vapour — perhaps the distinctive vapour trail observed in so many ACUFOS reports. (*The Truth About Flying Saucers*, Aime Michel 1957: pg 132–3, p 138)

Jacques Vallee's 1966 UFO classification system places cigar-UFOs in their own category — as Type II (Vallee System) objects. These are 'sky objects with a vertical cylindrical form, often associated with a diffuse cloud'.

There are two sub-categories within Vallee's classification:

- ☐ Category IIA are cylindrical objects observed to have erratic behaviour
- ☐ Category IIB are stationery cylindrical objects which give rise to secondary phenomena

(*Challenge to Science*, Jacques Vallee 1966, pg 54)

The following case studies indicate some of the diversity of this particular UFO type.

Case 1: Paris, France — September 1954

Mr Rabot was driving along the N7 motorway south of Paris, when he saw a red cigar-like object, with what seemed to be luminous smoke escaping from it. The observation lasted several minutes — enough time for him to stop the car and watch the large object move slowly and majestically by.

At the same time, while returning from Fontainebleau along the N7, Mrs Gamundi of Paris also observed the phenomenon. She stopped her car and watched a stationary, vertical red cigar surrounded by clouds. More than a dozen small disk-shaped objects fell out from the lower part of the cigar one after the other and flew away. (*Challenge to Science*, Jacques Vallee 1966, pg 55)

Observers frequently report that when a main cylinder travels with smaller satellite disks, the cylinder travels in a straight line and the satellites zigzag around it. When at rest, or hovering, the satellite disks are vertical. As they increase speed the disks tilt up at a slight angle — possibly due to some fluid-dynamic effect.

Case 2: Kununurra, WA — August 1966

Cotton farmer Philip Johnston saw what first looked like a very large star travelling earthwards. As the 'star' came closer he could see it was a white light with a red light behind. It appeared to slow down, then stopped and the red light went out. The white light then disappeared behind a hill. (Mr Johnston stopped his tractor and turned the lights off. He said he was 'really scared and felt like crawling under the tractor') The

bright light reappeared along with four red-coloured lights which dominated as the white light faded and went out. The white light suddenly came on again, brighter than before. It lit up the surrounding area, hovering some 200 metres away for about 5 minutes. The object then rose slowly and banked before moving off leaving a vapour trail behind. Against the starry sky, Johnston could see the outline of an object, a 40–50 metre long cigar, about 2.5 metres wide (that is, 150 ft by 8 ft). (*Australian UFO Review*, Dec 1969 Vol 10:30)

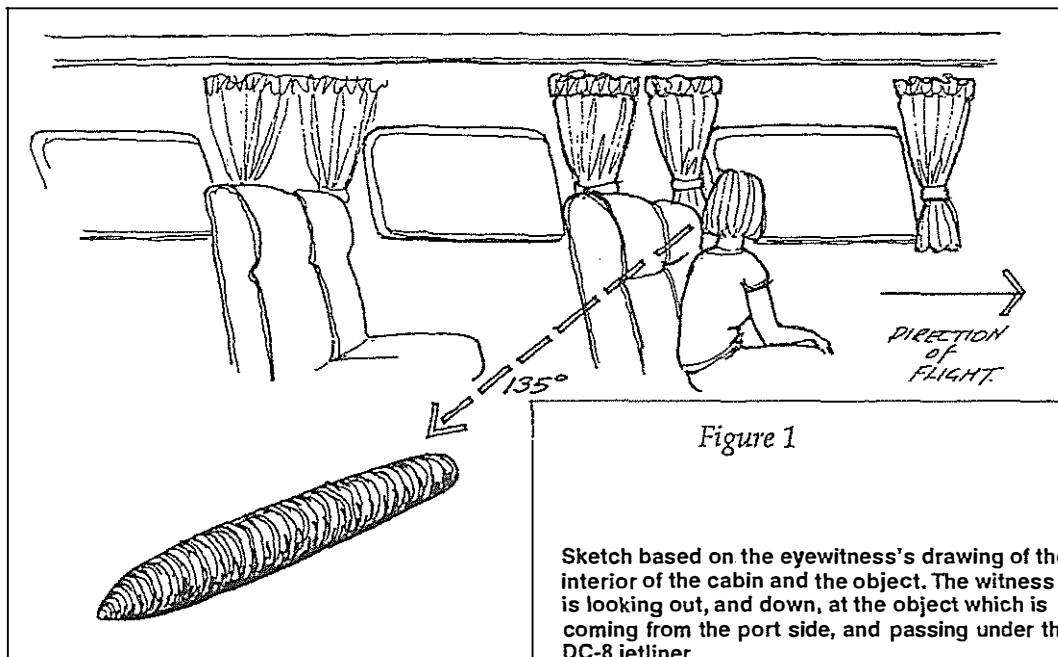
Case 3: Atlantic Ocean — May 1963

A group of 50 NATO personnel were travelling in an Air Canada DC8 from Europe to Ottawa Canada. At 36–38,000 feet in clear weather Mrs King saw a 'gigantic, stationary dark-grey torpedo' with no windows, portholes, or wings. It was perhaps some 2,000 metres long — see Figure 1. (*FSR*, Vol 27 No 3 1981: pg 17)

Case 4: Newcastle-on-Tyne, UK — February 1978

A mother and daughter in Killingworth, near Newcastle-on-Tyne, heard a loud noise that gradually become deafening. Thinking an aircraft was about to crash

both women rushed to their own bedroom windows. Each saw an object shaped like 'the tins that cigars come in'. It was silvery but not shining and had a string of 20–25 lights down each side. These were not like windows, but more like light globes. The object was 9–10 metres long and 2.4 metres high



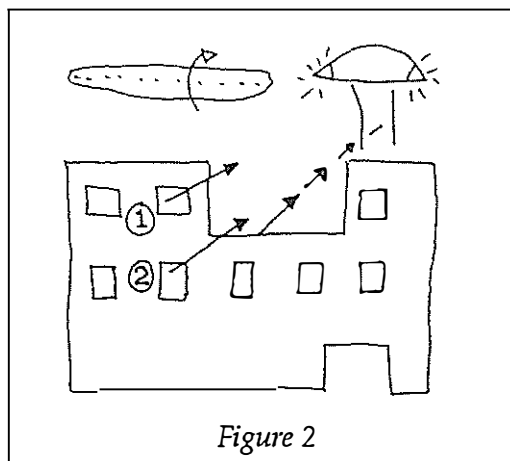


Figure 2

(35ft by 8 ft), and there were no signs of any doors or wings.

The object was travelling slowly, at around 60 kph, and cruised between two high points of the house about 7.6 m above the ground — see Figure 2. (FSR Vol 24 No 4 1979: pg 29–31.)

Case 5: Plymouth, UK — November 1978

A cigar-shaped UFO was seen at Estover. Observed from a moving car, it had a long black cigar shape, with one bright white light on the front and a smaller white light at the back. It seemed to be pacing the car and made no noise at all. At Millers Way, the object stopped for a moment before shooting off up into the sky.

On 28 November 1978, Mr B of Devonport saw a cigar-shaped object at about 3,000 metres altitude. It was 'twice the size of a Jumbo Jet which we see a lot around here' (that is, around 130 metres long). The observation lasted a minute. ('UFO Over Plymouth', *Plymouth UFO Group*, 1983: pgs 8–10)

Diagrams of assorted cigar objects reported from around southern England are shown in Figures 3 to 6.

Case 6: Kempsey, NSW — September 1972

Kempsey greengrocer Mr Allan James noticed a long cigar-shaped UFO while ascending a hill on the Armidale Road west of Georges Creek. He stated, 'it was 100 times bigger than a Boeing 707, and small objects — flying saucers —

came from each end'. The discs grouped into an arrowhead formation before heading south-east. Mr James said the small objects left the larger object like fighters leaving an aircraft carrier. Once the discs were out of sight, the larger craft climbed at such a high speed that it disappeared from sight within seconds. This observation occurred in broad daylight and lasted for 10 minutes. Mr James estimated that the large cigar was several thousand feet above the ground, when the smaller discs appeared — see Figure 7. (FSR Vol 21 No 6 1976: pg 3.)

Case 7: Zanthus District, WA — August 1968

Two Air Services pilots returning from Adelaide to Perth in a Piper Navajo VH-RTO reported a group of objects while travelling westwards over the Zanthus district of Western Australia. They saw the objects at 0940 hours GMT while cruising at 190 knots and at 8,000 feet. Captain Smith said the formation was 'some distance ahead at the same level, and about 50 degrees' to his right (from his seat on the right hand side of the plane). In the middle was a large craft and to right and left of it were four or five smaller aircraft:

'We were on track 270 degrees and these objects maintained station with

Cigar objects seen over southern England



Figure 3

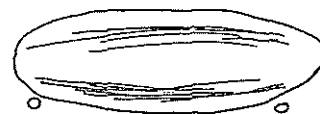


Figure 4



Object as seen by Mrs Brawett

Figure 5

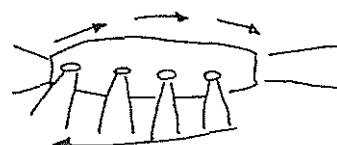
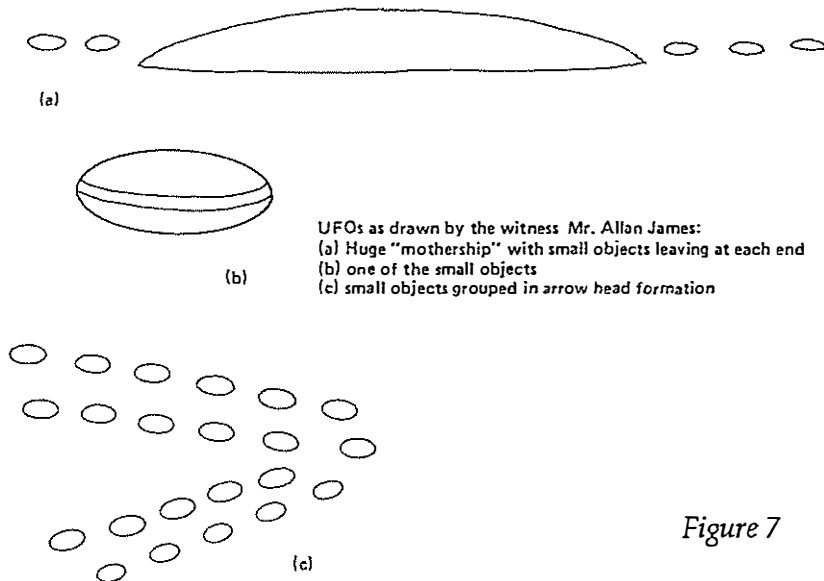


Figure 6

us.' (FSR Vol 24 No 5 1979: pgs 9-13 *Mother Ships over Australia*, Paul Norman)

Case 8: Siberia, USSR — December 1989

An unusual object hovering over Chelyabinski in central Siberia was reported by Mr Vladimir Kuzmin, an experienced jet pilot instructor, while flying a two-seater L-29 single-engine jet plane.



UFOs as drawn by the witness Mr. Allan James:
(a) Huge "mothership" with small objects leaving at each end
(b) one of the small objects
(c) small objects grouped in arrow head formation

Figure 7

The dark grey, cigar-shaped object was observed for more than 8 minutes and was in direct view for over 4 minutes. Within hours Mr Kuzmin developed a strange crust-like coating over part of his face which persisted for 11 days.

He drew the object as a cigar-shaped UFO with a length-to-thickness ratio of 8:1 and slightly-rounded ends. (TUR Vol 16 No 6 1991: pgs 12-13, *Encounter over Siberia*)

Case 9: Manchester, UK — November 1977

Four middle-aged witnesses saw 'a huge dark oblong ... it was dark grey, a kind of blackish metal covering... I cannot be sure of what the front end was like but I think it was a cone and on this was a huge pulsating red light. The light itself was the apparent size of the full moon. This pulsed at a slow rate — about once every three seconds ... most of the time the light was off. It came suddenly, grew bright, quickly faded

and then came on about 3 seconds later...The size of the thing was amazing...it seemed to take so long to pass over...it seemed ages before we saw the back of it...'

The sighting occurred close to the Shell Carrington oil refinery and a power station and an array of grid power lines — see map.

It approached the area shining a large floodlight, like those used at sports events, with a panel visible between the lights — see Figure 8. The police regarded this brightly lit object as a 'phantom helicopter' because it seemed to hover down low, near the plant. (FSR, Vol 24 No 4 1979: pg 22)

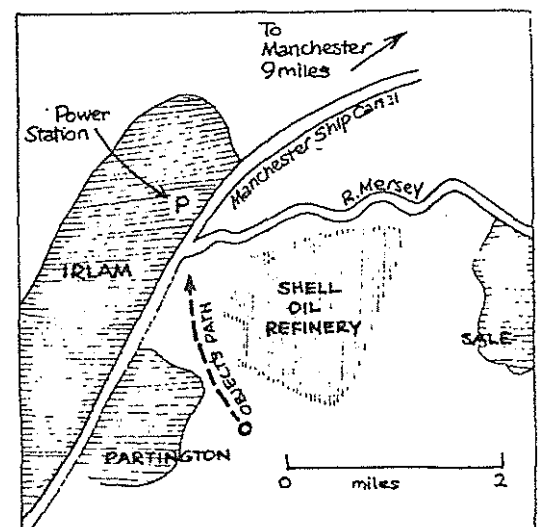
Case 10: Galisteo Junction (now Lamy), New Mexico, USA — March 1880

Three men heard loud noises from a 'large balloon the shape of a fish' which approached rapidly from the west. The object appeared to be entirely under the control of 8-10 occupants 'in a car[riage]' slung below it, and guided by a fanlike apparatus. It was monstrous in size — see Figure 9.

Other Australian Cases

Perth — July to October 1957: A yellow cigar-shaped object some 7 cm long (apparent size) was seen through a refracting telescope (30x magnification) traversing the moon.

Cambridge Plateau, Casino NSW — July 1982: Small, vibrating pinkish-yel-



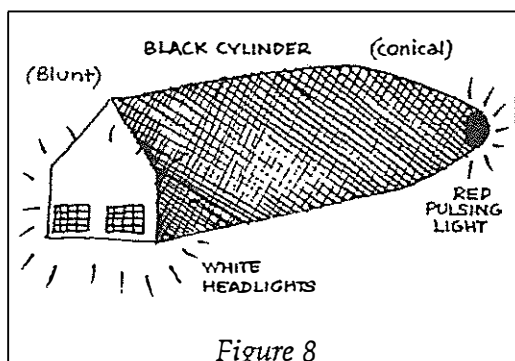


Figure 8

low 'pencil' 300 by 8 mm hovered above the ground at a height of 1 metre.

Tully, Deluca Hill, North Queensland — October 1982: A colourful cigar-shaped object with a smaller conical object was observed for seven minutes — see Figure 10.

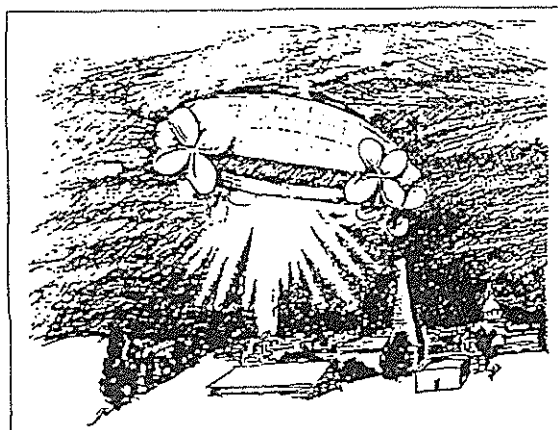
Hexham NSW — December 1984: A large grey cigar-shaped object with three smaller discs, one behind and one each side moved slowly over the Ponderosa Caravan Park, some 60–90 metres overhead (see account earlier in this issue). The three smaller discs joined the larger object and zigzagged around it. The side ones swapped sides and reformed at the rear of the cigar 'like a tail' as the cigar moved along. The cigar had a bright white light in front which lit up the area of the caravan park.

A cigar-shaped object report from UFOIC's *Australian UFO Review* No 10 for December 1969 is reprinted overleaf.

Summary

The common elements of class IIA and IIB (Vallee) objects which distinguish them from other UFOs are:

- ☐ Size: the very large objects (100–1,000 meters long) are usually squatter — the length to width ratio is about 2.2 to 1. Small craft (less than 1 m across) are not usually found with these objects
- ☐ Cigars which have conical ends are usually illuminated at the cone tip. Cigars with blunt ends are usually unlit
- ☐ Cigar UFOs are usually a dark metallic grey colour
- ☐ Cigars move slowly at low altitudes



Artist's conception of the airship that appeared in newspapers of the era (From the files of August C. Roberts).

Figure 9

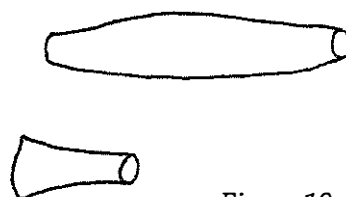


Figure 10

- ☐ Cigars usually follow horizontal trajectories or move straight upwards
- ☐ Cigars often include intense search-light facilities
- ☐ Cigars are seen in isolated areas late at night or near power stations, oil refineries, military bases, or over water
- ☐ Any disc-shaped UFOs associated with cigars position themselves alongside, slightly trailing the cigar, or trail along behind in a straight line formation
- ☐ Cigars tend to be seen at very low altitudes (below 200 metres)
- ☐ Cigars are usually silent

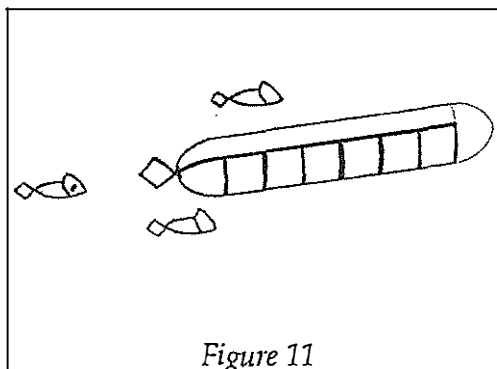
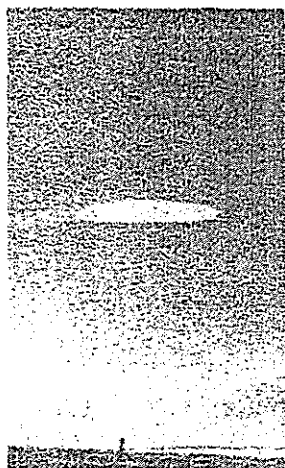


Figure 11

Cigar-shaped UFOs in Australia



Locality	Date	Witnesses	Story
Adelaide, SA	26 Apr 1966	J. Sheldon	Long glowing, cigar-shaped object, about 5.5 km distant. Radio interference.
Adelaide, SA	4 Nov 1966	J. Hawke	Cigar-shaped object, dark band across centre, hovered. Seen two minutes
Tranmere, SA	2 May 1967	Chester family (3), newspaper witnesses	White, cigar-shaped light at an angle to the horizon, tilted further and descended with flashing white light in front. Disappeared behind hills.
Dundas, NSW	May 1967	J. Searle and neighbour	Box kite-like object, hovered, flashed lights and later moved west. Changed colour; visible for 1.5 hours.
Pet River Dam, Tas	29 Aug 1967, 2030 hrs	M. Hayes	Cigar-shaped object 'like lighted railway carriage', approx. ten times size of a passenger plane, hovered at commercial aircraft altitude. Red lights lit up the craft's rear end and small rocket-like objects shot out of tail and disappeared. Craft then crossed from horizon to horizon in seconds, glowing initially, then became a single point of light. No sound heard at all.
Hobart, Tas	29 Aug 1967	C. Walsh, D. Hull, J. Shapman-Mortimer, D. Innes (Const)	Lit cigar-shaped object, 200 m above ground, accelerated and disappeared.
Bendigo, Vic	30 Aug 1967	H. & T. Holmberg, F. Seddon	Silent object with evenly-spaced orange lights; resembled a railway carriage. Flashed across sky. Seen for 10 seconds.
Mayanup-Kojonup, WA	13 Oct 1967	L. Locke	Car immobilised. Iridescent blue tube of light from cigar-object 30m above. Electrical system and car radio put out of action. Car halted by degrees from 100 kmh. Driver paralysed; sense of time dilated.
East Ipswich, Qld	24 Feb 1968, 1230-1300	R. Phillips	Small, brilliant-white cigar-shaped object moved due north into clouds. Emerged, then stopped. Black orb visible beneath. Returned to clouds then disappeared in north-west sky.
Belmont, NSW	25 Aug 1968	Robertson family	Cigar-shaped object came from north, heading towards the ocean. Object large, seemed semi-transparent, and resembled a neon tube. Seen in daylight (morning)
Richlands, Qld	10 Jan 1969	Eather family	Yellow-orange, noiseless cylinder moved slowly in sky, travelling west to east. Seen through binoculars for seven minutes. Object had large, square 'windows'.
Norseman, WA	20 Feb 1969	J. Rose	Fully-fuelled car 'began to gasp' as if out of fuel. Cigar-shaped object then seen 17 metres away, near the road. Object 10m long, moved away above trees, kicking up dust and leaves. Car then sped ahead. Object disappeared very quickly, taking 10 seconds to rise and vanish.

(Sightings from data compiled by UFOIC)

Further considerations

From their characteristic of producing smaller craft, cigars have often been termed 'mother ships'. Their function may be similar to terrestrial naval aircraft carriers which act as 'floating cities' — cigar-UFOs may act as mostly passive platforms for aerial reconnaissance craft. For such carrier operations,

these craft would not want to be seen on radar and hence fly below 200m — their dark gray appearance may help camouflage.

If cigar-UFOs operate as reconnaissance-craft carriers, then larger numbers of the smaller UFOs might be reported when cigar-UFOs are reported. Therefore, concentrations of this

type of craft might be found from important waves of UFO sightings, such as:

- ☐ USA: 1947, 1950, 1952, 1965, 1967, 1973
 - ☐ Australia: 1965
 - ☐ New Zealand: 1960
 - ☐ New Guinea: 1959
 - ☐ USSR: 1962, 1977-78
 - ☐ UK: 1967-68, 1977
 - ☐ Western Europe: 1954, 1968, 1973
- (*The World of the Unknown*, Rigby/Usborne 1977: pg 8)

Conversely, the Belgian wave from October 1989 to May 1990 reported predominantly triangular-shaped UFOs and not disks or cigars. Joel Mesnard's

report to *Flying Saucer Review* on the Belgian wave (*FSR Vol 35 No 2 June 1990: pg 3*), stated that 'not a single one of these reports was of an object that was near, and not one was of a landed object'. This suggests to me that the Belgian wave may have been of largely terrestrial origin, in keeping with the US Stealth aircraft technology unveiled recently.

During April and May of 1992, Australia experienced another UFO flap along its eastern seaboard. Some of these were cigar-shaped craft and may signal increasing UFO activity — cigar UFOs deserve continuing investigation.

☐

New UFO Research Group in Canberra

A UFO investigation group recently formed in Canberra held its first public meeting in July 1992.

UFO Research and Investigation Canberra (UFORIC) has just produced its first newsletter, *Communique*, shown here.

The group has adopted the same code of ethics for investigators as was printed in *UFO Reporter* number 1 (originally taken from guidelines developed by Jenny Randles in the UK, and Mark Moravec now of Anomaly Research Centre, Ballarat).

Canberra members cooperated with UFOR(NSW) to produce the Collector UFO report found later in this issue.

To join up or find out more about UFORIC, its publications, fees and activities, either write to:

UFORIC
PO Box 382
Woden ACT 2606

or telephone (06) 231 9484 (ask for Clare, David, or Elaine)



COMMUNIQUE

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 1992



UFO Flap
Over Canberra

The Protocols
of Ufology

The Photon
Belt Debunked

A 'net full of stars' at Collector

E. Mudge, C. Williams, B. Dickeson, M. McGhee

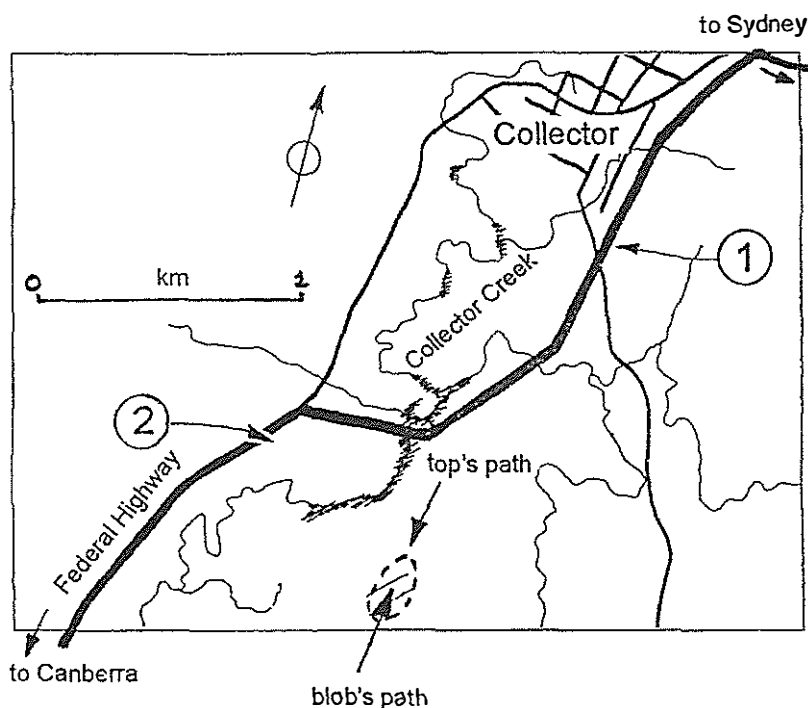
The objects were seen on Sunday 17 May 1992 at Collector NSW between 2100 and 2115 hrs.

The weather was cool and calm, with dense cloud high overhead (it was a starless night).

UFOR(NSW) was first notified on 18 May 1992, and two of the witnesses, G and E, were interviewed on 24 May 1992.

The location was revisited on 24 May (in the evening by Dickeson), and on 25 May 1992 (in the afternoon, by G, E and Williams).

G, E, and K were returning home by car from Sydney to Canberra, heading southwards along the Federal Highway at around 60 kph. They had just passed the northern turnoff to Collector and were travelling along the new Collector bypass. K was driving and E was in the passenger seat talking to him. G was in the back seat behind the driver looking backwards out the left side and back windows, in a north-easterly direction (see map, position 1).



G suddenly noticed an unusual 'large net full of stars' hanging in the eastern sky some 20 degrees above the horizon, and moving in the same general direction as their car (see Figure 1). The object seemed to be fairly close, and occasionally changed direction, moving erratically up or down some 5 to 10 degrees in the night sky. After watching it for about two minutes, the object appeared to jump upwards out of her line of sight altogether.

G then turned to the other travellers in the car and said, 'I'm not quite sure, but I think I've just seen a UFO.'

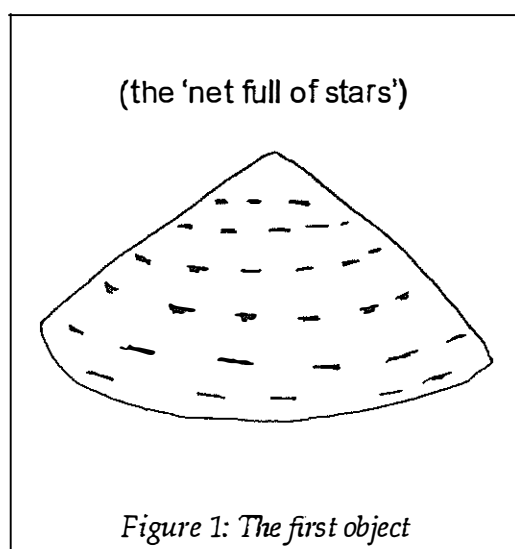
G described what she had seen, and they all agreed that if she ever saw anything like that again then they should stop the car and have a look.

G kept glancing out the window from time to time, and suddenly noticed the object had returned (this was about two more minutes after the object had first disappeared). The driver immediately pulled over to the left side of the road and G and K got out of the car and walked to the road verge for a better look. (E has a disability and stayed in the car, but rolled the window down to get a better view.)

The car stopped about 100 metres past the southern turnoff to Collector from the Federal Highway at position 2 on the map ($34^{\circ}56'21 \pm 1''$ S, $149^{\circ}25'10 \pm 1''$ E). At that point, the Federal Highway is raised up several metres onto a causeway above exposed river flats about two kilometres to the north of Lake George, so the witnesses had a clear, unimpeded view.

G and K saw that there were in fact two distinctive lit objects. The smaller object on the left was shaped like a child's toy top, as if it were two saucers placed edge to edge. It had several

eral strings of small, stationary white lights arranged in parallel bands around the top and bottom surfaces. The small lights flickered irregularly but quite slowly within their bands, and were irregularly spaced in their bands. There appeared to be smaller cylinders at the top and bottom of the object, with similar rows of small white lights. The object had sharp edges (see Figure 2), and was about 'one and a half times as wide as a full moon'. (E indicated that the small lights on the upper surface were greenish, those on the lower surface were reddish, and not white!)



The second object was a larger, brighter, but more diffuse yellowish-white light source, with soft edges, and a slightly flattened, 'saggy' appearance (that is, elliptical or oblate). This 'elliptical blob' might have been rotating slowly; the witnesses could not be sure. It appeared to be sinking gradually groundwards, over to their right at a slight angle of about 10–15 degrees with the horizon. Both objects were completely silent.

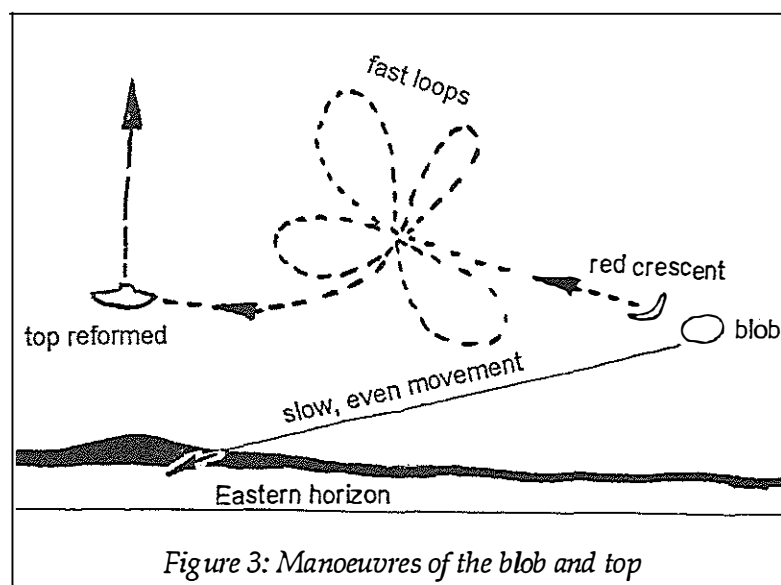
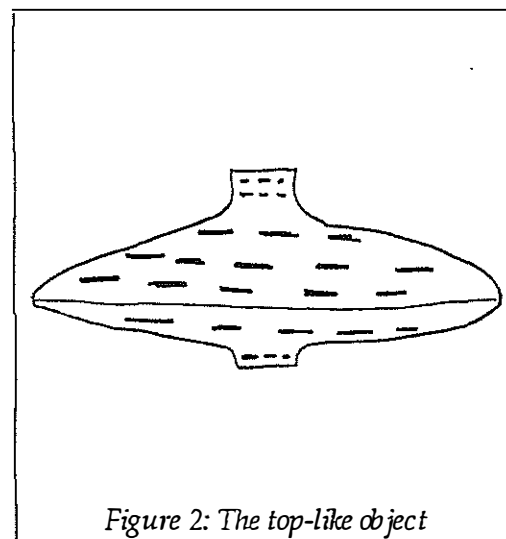
After a minute or two of hovering, the top-like object on the left changed suddenly into a bright brick-red crescent of light with fairly well-defined edges, and started executing a series of loops, arcs, flips and figures-of-eight away from the larger blob. The elliptical blob's path of descent remained fairly

steady throughout these gyrations by the top-like object (see Figure 3).

The switch between crescent and top forms appeared to be instantaneous — the investigators think the red crescent may have been some auroral discharge from the base of the top-like object, associated with the rapid movements. However, it is the opinion of the witnesses that the object 'somehow retracted portions of itself and turned over'. The intensity of this bright red glow may have quite washed out the effect of rows of smaller greenish-white lights on the upper surface of the top.

This 'active' phase lasted about eight or so minutes. Then the top-like object stopped and hovered momentarily, before shooting vertically upwards into the sky at great speed. It was completely out of sight within a few seconds and did not reappear. G remembers then checking the time on her watch — it was about a quarter past 9.

After several minutes they got into their car to continue home. At this point,



E noticed that the large blob had descended to ground level and was visible through the 15–20 metres high pine trees which form a windbreak on the low hill opposite the causeway. The object continued to glow and lit up the surrounding terrain (see Figure 4.).

The observers thought about stopping again and walking over to the blob, but it was late and they wished to get home — they were also uncertain about what they would find. If G's son had been with them they probably would have done so.

All three were most surprised that although many cars had passed by them during the incident (the Federal Highway is quite busy at that time of the week), none stopped to watch the manoeuvring lights.

Several time the observers said they could see the blob in trees on the other side of the 'lake'. At first the interviewers presumed this was nearby Lake George, but the lake does not extend this far north. The investigators also asked whether the witnesses had noticed any light reflected from the waters of the 'lake' — neither could remember any. One week after the event, one of us (Dickeson) visited the location where the car stopped in the evening, and noticed that the river flats between the road causeway and the low line of hills to the east were filled with a solid white ground mist — a condition typical for the area at that time of year. Perhaps the witnesses mistook this ground mist to be part of Lake George.

The probable landing site for the blob places the objects as being about

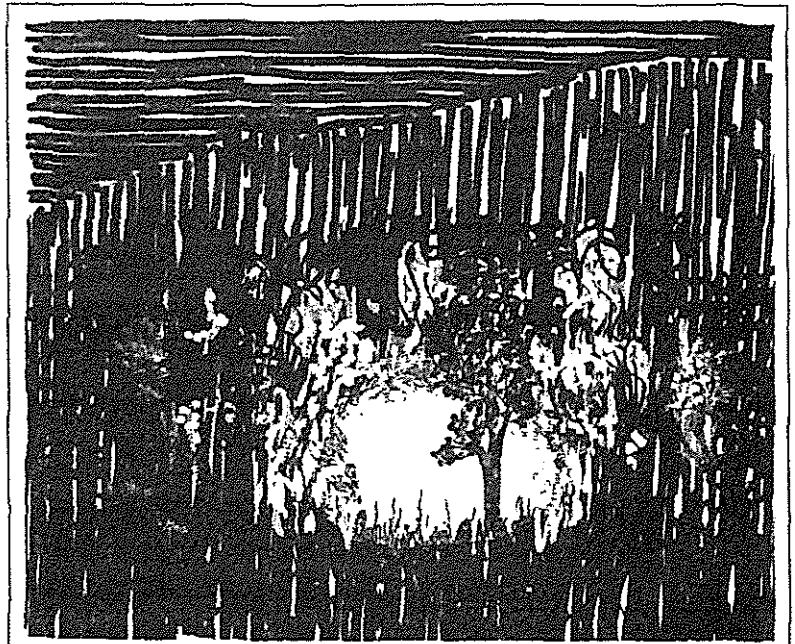


Figure 4: The blob among the trees

1.25 \pm 0.05 km away from them. By triangulation, the probable sizes of each object were:

- the top-like object — 13.5 \pm 0.5 metres wide, 5.5 \pm 0.5 metres high, and
- the blob about 18.0 \pm 0.5 metres wide 10.5 \pm 0.5 metres high.

One of us (Williams) visited the probable landing site for the blob with the two witnesses (G and E) eight days later to take photographs. There had been some light rain in the area since the incident and no unusual physical traces could be found.

The three noticed that there was an irregular circular placement of stones nearby which appeared to be natural. The possibility that there might be aboriginal sites in the area was investigated — although this area is the geographic centre for the Ngunawal peoples, there are no local sites recorded at all.

Williams spoke to all the farmers living nearby, but none reported anything unusual for that time. One farmer did mention that some 20 years previously his grandfather had seen a large diffuse blob of light one night, bright enough to wake him up, on a nearby hilltop. His grandfather died some years ago. □

UFOs and earthquake lights

The Collector report of a globular ball of light plus the anecdotal account of an earlier occurrence of a similar light in the area, raises the possibility of a connection between some UFO-type phenomena and *earthquake lights* or *earth lights*.

Occasionally these strange lights — seen as faint beams, or diffuse balls of light — are reported from near geological fault zones, especially around the time of an earthquake. The lights are thought to arise from geological stresses which generate an electrical charge in subterranean rocks with piezoelectric properties (these same piezoelectric rocks are used as domestic spark generators and gas lighters). The known piezoelectric minerals typically involve a class of minerals called 'perovskites'.

At about the time of the Collector report a series of big earthquakes had been felt just north of Australia, in Indonesia.

Although we do not think of the east coast of Australia as being particularly earthquake-prone, it does form an important link in the very active 'ring of fire' circling the Pacific Ocean.

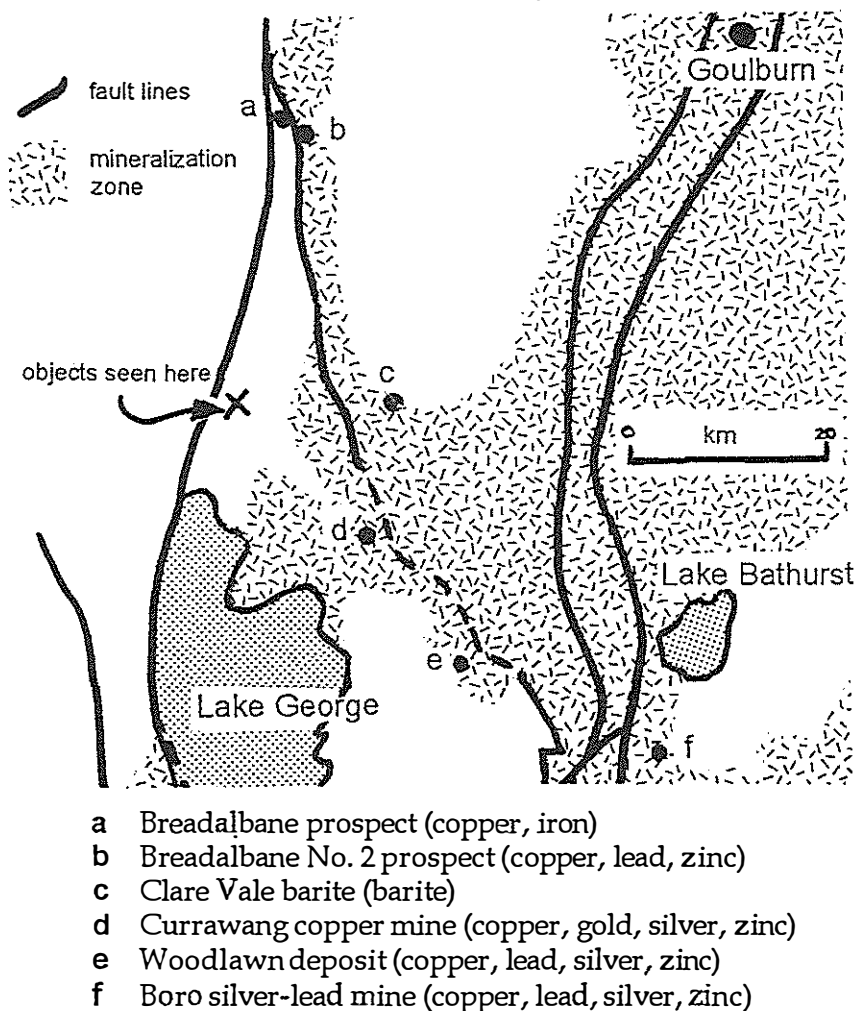
The area south of Goulburn contains plenty of evidence of significant earthquake activity in the distant past, and the Collector 'blob' was seen directly above a fault line (however, the 'top-like' object and its movements are nothing like earthquake light reports).

The very important North Captain's Flat-Goulburn Synclinal minerals zone lies directly east of Lake George. One major fault in this system follows the western side of the lake itself, directly below the Canberra-Sydney highway (see map below).

All known mineral deposits in the area, past and present are listed as A to F in the map below. These were probably deposited by archaic volcanic springs bubbling up through cracks in the Earth's crust interacting with sea water (the same way as the Broken Hill deposits), and can be traced northwards to Hill End, an important colonial gold town.

The basic and acidic volcanic rocks abundant within the area around Lake George contain the kinds of elements typically associated with perovskites. (Indeed, perovskites have been reported in similar geological deposits elsewhere in New South Wales. However, we could not find a reference to perovskites having been found specifically in the North Captain's Flat-Goulburn formation.)

Reference: The Mineral Deposits of New South Wales, Markham & Basden (1974 — Department of Mines, Geological Survey of NSW) □



East coast flap of 1992 — Part I

P.Sowiak-Rudej, Frank Sinclair, Coralee Vickery, Moira McGhee

Part I of a two-part article describing the results of early enquiries into what has become known as the 'Australian east coast flap of 1992'. Part II will appear in the next issue of UFO Reporter.

The first reports of UFO activity from the NSW Central Coast area for 1992 came to UFOR(NSW) second-hand from accounts in local and Sydney newspapers, and from a Channel 9 TV news item. These sightings most probably occurred on the night of Tuesday 28 April 1992.

At first it was very difficult for UFOR(NSW) to assess the true situation — the witnesses interviewed by police and on TV had used false names and addresses and could not be located later. Toukley police were very sceptical about the value of these reports, and so were we. (Incidentally, if anyone out there knows what has happened to 'Peter and Pat Keo' or 'Bill Brown', please let us know — one of us has already spent some time unsuccessfully cruising the streets of Gosford-Toukley for an unusual letterbox which featured as a background prop in the TV report.)

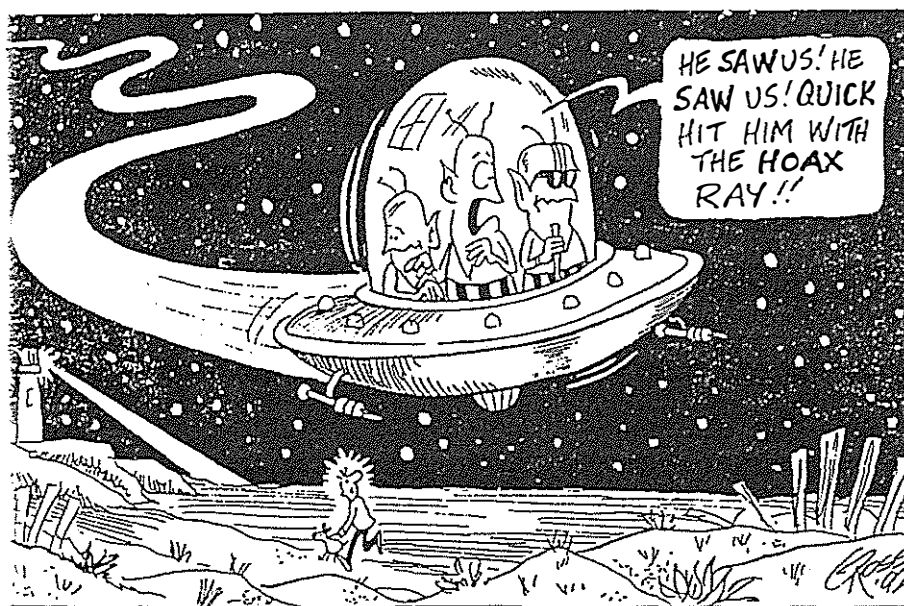
Central Coast newspapers of the time described US-Australian military exercises taking place off the east coast as a possible source of activity, and we began to wonder whether we should waste more time and petrol investigating any further.

Two Central Coast businessmen soon got in on the act — one real estate agent told the local newspaper that the UFOs contained little green men who had come to see his astonishing land bargains (nice try, but his claim never really stuck). The second businessman ran a kite shop near The Entrance and had greater success with his story — the UFOs were kites that he had been flying in a local park around sunset; the implied message was that 'You could also fly your very own UFO in a range of colours, for only X dollars'.

On the whole, everyone seemed to be having a great time and 'Coast newspapers produced some nice little cartoons (such as the example on this page). The confusion was sufficient for UFOR(NSW) to avoid using the phrase 'UFO flap' until late June, by which time activity centred over the Central Coast had diminished.

At one point later, a military spokesperson suggested some of the UFO reports were due to Australian jet aircraft. This suggestion was officially withdrawn several days afterwards.

However, we soon began receiving telephone calls from UFOR(Queensland), who reported a sudden increase in activity in the south-east of that state, and who provided us with referrals to NSW witnesses who had phoned Bris-



bane. (We have since had similar independent accounts from Sydney and Canberra, and from Casino, but none from Victoria, so the wave of UFO activity appears to have been restricted to the central east coast of Australia.)

A week after the 'phantom of May 28', we started receiving telephone calls from the Central Coast on the new 'UFO hotline'. This information from the Central Coast was spectacular, clear, and uncluttered by media or commercial considerations. UFOR(NSW) could begin its investigations there in earnest. At one time, events seemed to be so frequent it seemed you could see something unusual flying over the Central Coast on almost any Sunday.

After several weeks of checking this information, it became apparent that there was a lot of detail we were not picking up, that witnesses had heard from elsewhere. There seemed to be an unusual amount of activity centred on the area around Gosford. UFOR(NSW) held an extremely successful public meeting in Gosford in August 1992 which generated more material — this will be covered in the next issue.

Many of the accounts provided are still being verified, and some analysis is being attempted — a job made more difficult by the few investigators available for this work.

Reports

The chronological information we have is as follows:

- ☐ **Tuesday 28 April 1992** (NSW Central Coast — a possible UFO — no details)
- ☐ **Friday 1 May 1992** (from UFOR Queensland)
An enormous flash of bluish-white light lit up the night sky over the southern suburbs of Brisbane for a radius of several kilometres. One local radio station was put off air for 10 seconds; the municipal power supply flickered and was lost temporarily in some streets. Martin Gottschall of UFOR(Qld) has written a very full analysis of this event — it is

unlikely to have been a meteor, lightning, or space debris

- ☐ **Saturday 2 May 1992** (from UFOR Queensland)

Two Brisbane campers reported that a green oblong object hovered above them lighting up the area for several kilometres. Other observers reported a brilliant green light which illuminated the area and made strange, often horizontal movements. The RAAF had suggested these were meteorites

- ☐ **Saturday 2 May and Sunday 3 May 1992** (from UFOR Queensland)

Strange yellow/orange lights were reported hovering and moving around the skies above Brisbane at very low altitudes

- ☐ **Sunday 3 May 1992**

Between 6 and 6.15 pm two people driving along the Pacific Highway, were approaching the Maitland turnoff to Cooranbong and Dora Creek near Lake Macquarie.

They reported seeing a very large, dazzlingly-bright white flashing light (object's shape unknown). The white lights were much larger and brighter than normal aircraft lights. Red and green lights on the underside were much wider apart than those on a normal plane. The object's altitude was very low, somewhere between 100 and 300 metres and there was absolutely no sound. The object hovered to the right of the road, then moved over the top of them and hovered to the left. Suddenly it moved away at incredible speed. It then returned and hovered again. The witnesses stopped the car and got out to have a better look. After a while it moved off to the south. RAAF told witnesses it was F-18 planes, but this was thought to be unlikely as they were both familiar with F-18s

- ☐ **Sunday 3 May 1992** (evening)

A UFO seen at Toronto NSW was reported to the *Newcastle Herald*

- ☐ **Wednesday 6 May 1992**

Near Ballina NSW several groups

reported UFO activity (details next issue)

☐ **Friday 8 May 1992**

A bright pink light tapering off to white at the edges was seen over Haberfield/Leichhardt in Sydney between 6.30 and 7 pm. It was larger than a plane, about half the size of a full moon (0.25 degrees across?), and appeared to hover. Two witnesses watched it for some minutes, following it in their car before it 'disappeared into thin air'

☐ **Sunday 10 May 1992**

A distinct black dot with no lights was seen over Sydney Harbour, between the Harbour Bridge and city at 5 pm. It was about the height of a plane and the size of a helicopter, but looked through binoculars like a jellyfish. The witness (who has a pilot's licence) observed the object for five minutes. The object followed a cycle of going around in circles then rising slightly, gradually climbing in a north-westerly direction

☐ **Sunday 10 May 1992**

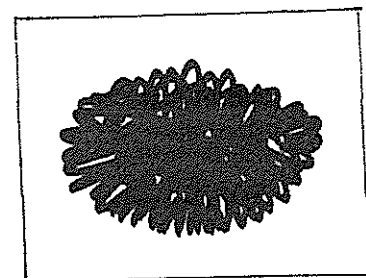
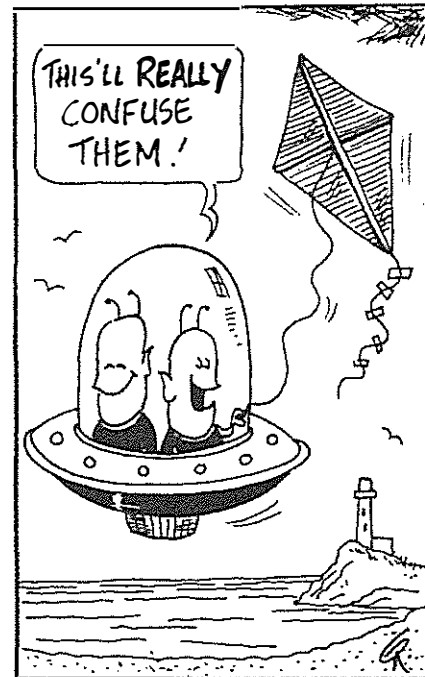
Three witnesses reported seeing a top-like object and a large globe of light to the south-east of Collector between 9 and 9.15 pm (see detailed account on page 20)

☐ **Wednesday 13 May 1992**

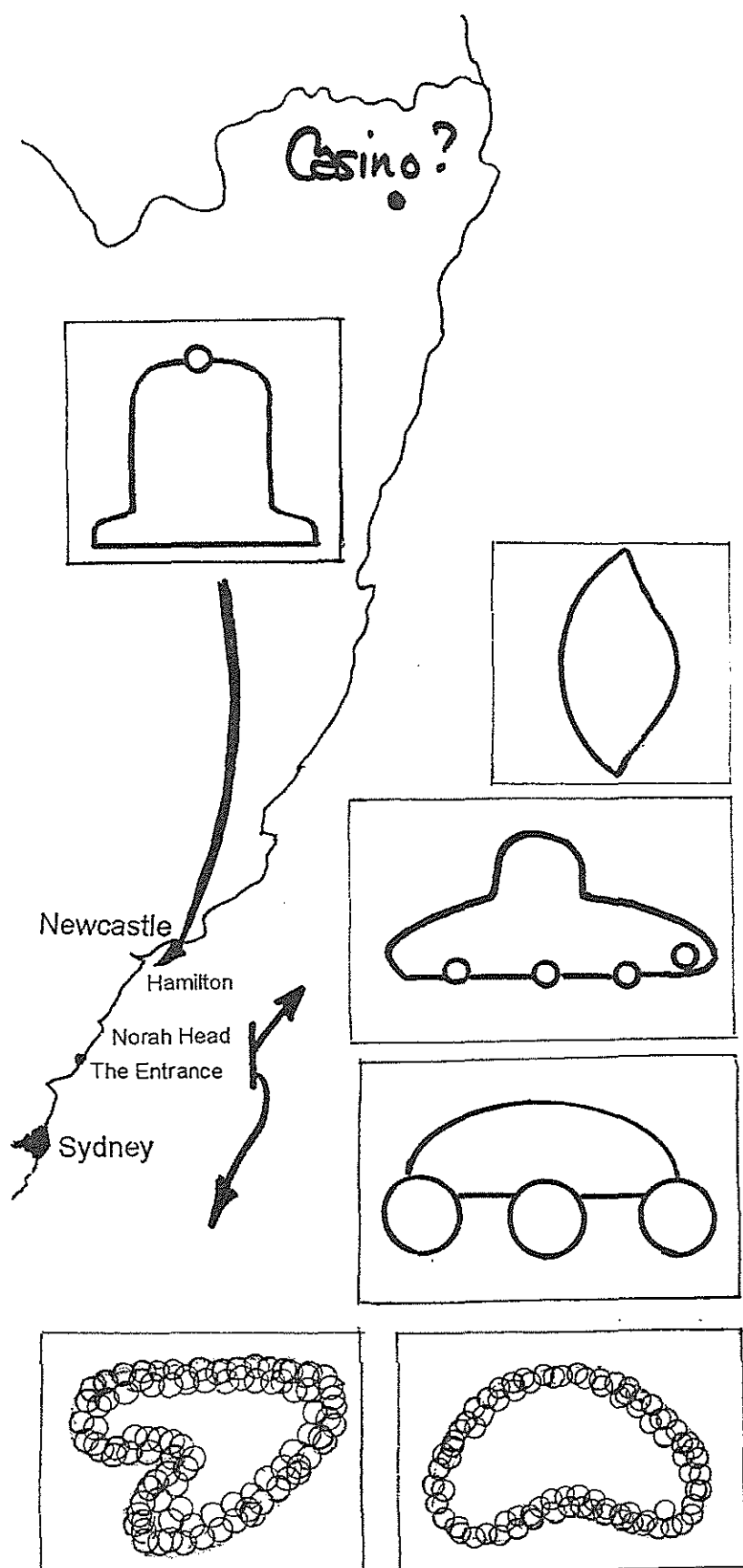
Two witnesses reported several lit objects with rows of red, green and white lights which moved landwards from out beyond The Entrance at around 7 pm. The objects circled from the southwest to the northwest over a period of about two hours. There was an electrical storm some way out to sea at the time

☐ **Wednesday 13 May 1992**

Two witnesses fishing off Soldiers Point rocks saw a kidney-shaped object with multi-coloured lights to the south-west. It moved overland between 7.45 and 8.10 pm below tree-top level. The object's colours included red, blue, yellow. When one fisherman flashed a torchlight at the object, it flashed back



Collector
Canberra



☐ **Sunday 18 May 1992**

Malabar, south-east Sydney. Four adults watched eight orange lights move overhead in formation for about 15 minutes from 9.25 to 9.30 pm (see detailed account in the following article)

☐ **Monday 24 May 1992**

Waverley Park, eastern Sydney, at noon. One witness reported seeing a 4-metre metallic disk with a clear, pointed dome on top below tree-top level for about 10 seconds. This sighting will be described in the next issue of *UFO Reporter*

☐ **Sunday 24 May 1992**

Two people travelling south-eastwards towards Barrengarry in the Kangaroo Valley saw a large, bright green, oval object some 16-20 metres across fly over their car between 10.55 and 11.00 pm. It made no sound, came up from behind the car and passed about 65 metres overhead, heading southeastwards at great speed. The extremely bright object had 'fuzzy edges' and veered a little erratically at times as it flew ahead of them

☐ **Monday 25 May 1992**

Hamilton South, between 10.20 and 10.30 pm. Five observers watched eight pairs of bright amber lights plus a single light at the end move across the eastern sky. The lights hovered and then zigzagged away. The sighting was confirmed by two other groups of witnesses

☐ **Sunday 31 May 1992**

Randwick, Sydney, between 6.30 and 7 pm. One witness reported seeing a large white disk sink slowly seawards in the centre of Botany Bay southwards from her position. There is some confirmation of this sighting from Carlton (west of Botany Bay). An investigator attempted to telephone the Control Tower at Kingsford Smith Airport during the event, but the switchboard was uninterested, said that nothing had been reported, and suggested 'fishing boat lights' as the cause. ☐

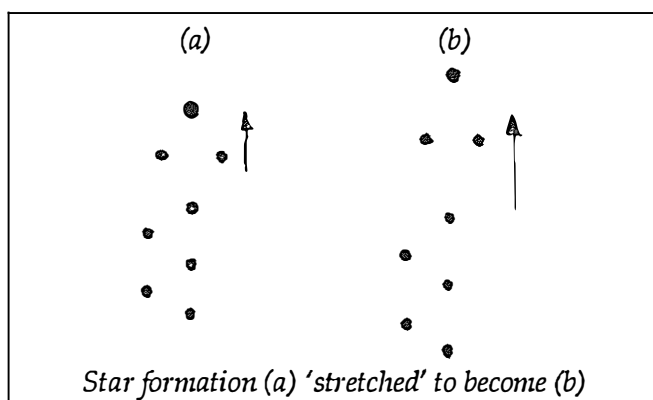
Malabar — A formation of orange UFOs

Bryan Dickeson and Moira McGhee

Seen on Monday 18 May 1992, from 2125 to 2130 hrs (duration 10–15 minutes).

Mr L has an evening job and was returning home from work with Mrs L after doing a little late shopping. They put their car into the garage and were unloading the boot when Mrs L noticed a series of lights in loose formation rising up in the southern sky behind them. The lights were an extremely bright orange, each about 'four times the size and brightness of the brightest star' (possibly four times the magnitude of Venus, or magnitude -6?) and moved in formation high overhead through some 95 degrees of sky from the south to east (see sky map opposite). The lead star was a little brighter than the rest.

As it moved across the sky, the formation seemed to stretch, but the objects retained their same position relative to one another (see figure below).



The Ls are Chinese Australians, and Mrs L had first remarked, 'Look, the seven stars' (a reference to a well-known Chinese story). Mr L stated that there were actually eight orange stars.

They were both so excited that, when they noticed a light on in their next door neighbour's house, they

knocked on the door and got the father and daughter there to watch the spectacle as well. The four adults watched the formation for about 10 minutes.

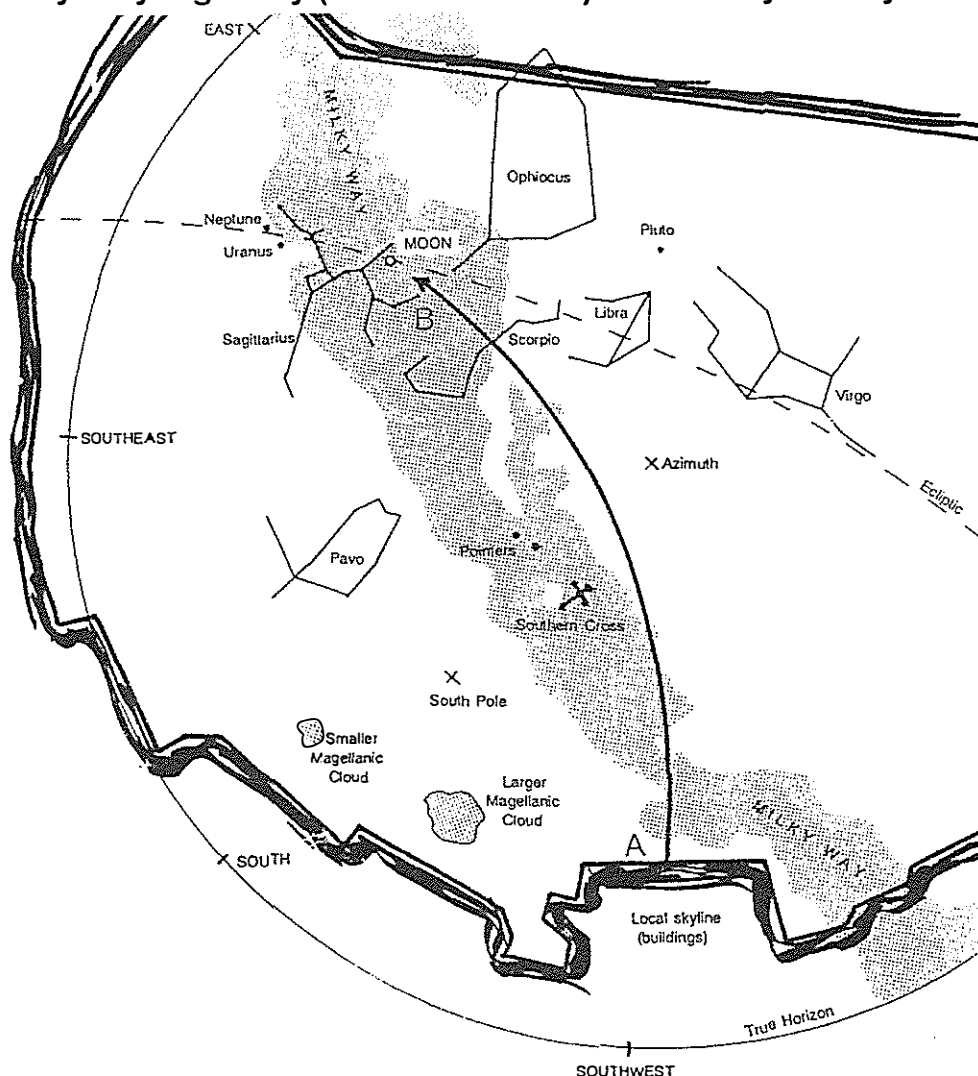
As the formation approached the Moon's position in the eastern sky, each light diminished in size and brightness and disappeared, from the back-most forwards, until only the brightest front light remained. Then it too faded and vanished.

Mr L contacted UFOR(NSW) the next day.

The report was further confirmed several weeks later when another resident of the same street reported that she and her husband had seen the same phenomenon. The woman reported there were six or seven lights, each about three times as bright as a star. She said she thought the objects were so spectacular and special that she had been surprised there were no reports of other sightings in the newspaper the following day. The woman was delighted to hear someone else had reported the objects. □

UFOR (NSW) received a report from Mr W some days before this event, describing a similar experience in January or February 1965. Mr W, three other members of his family and neighbours saw a loose arrowhead formation of nine white stars cross the sky from south-west to south-east in two to four minutes.

The Sydney night sky (34 ° S 151° 20' E) for Monday 18 May at 2130 hours



T - SHIRTS, VIDEO'S, INFO - PACKS T - SHIRTS, VIDEO'S, INFO - PACKS



UFO REPORTER

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Close sighting of a disc at Kyeemagh

Frank Sinclair and Paul Sowiak-Rudej

This exceptional sighting occurred next to the control tower of Sydney airport. When the witnesses telephoned airport staff later, they denied that anything unusual had occurred. Mrs C was finally able to report this event to UFOR(NSW) after we received publicity during the Gosford flap.

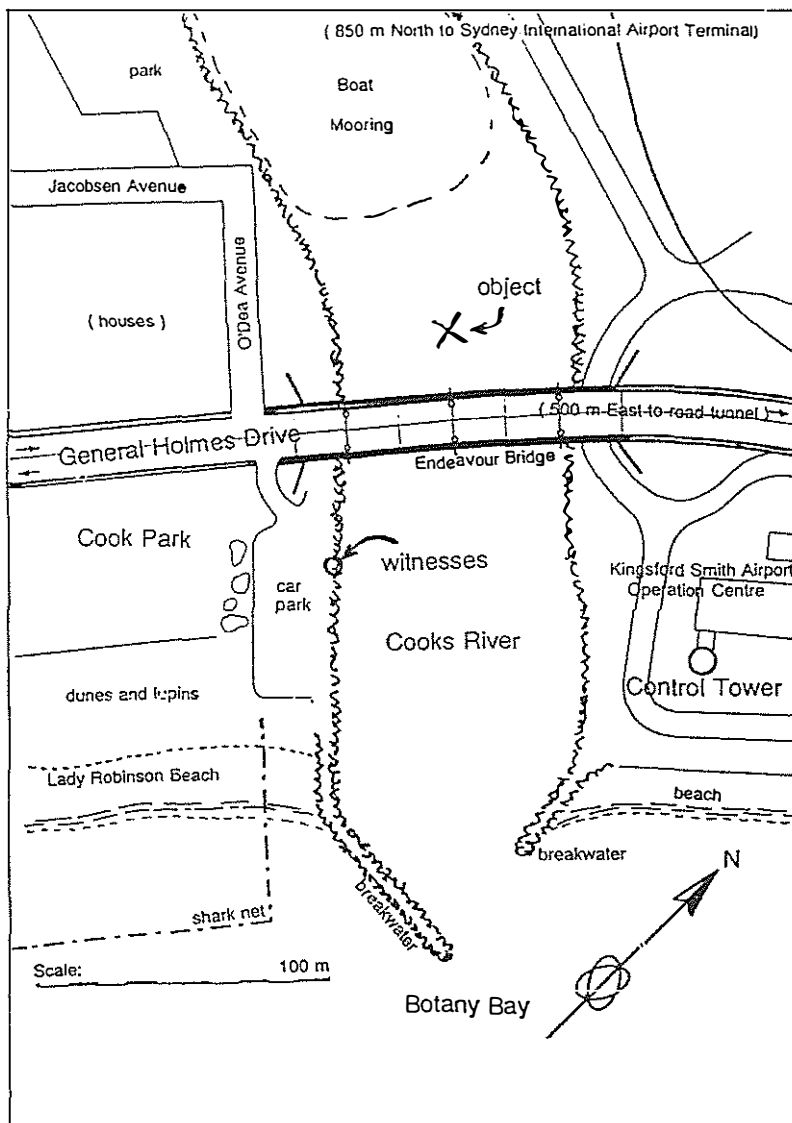
The four members of the C Family were fishing off the rocky embankment on the west side of the mouth of the Cooks River, just below the Endeavour Bridge (on the seaward side) at Kyeemagh. The area is a popular fishing spot and there were several other groups of people fishing close by.

It was 7.30pm (Mrs C checked her watch), and the incoming tide had not yet started to turn. The fish were not biting, so Mrs C and her two young daughters were looking at the scenery. It was a clear evening, and some stars and planets were visible in the night sky. Then Mrs C noticed a stationary object in the north-western sky above the street lights on the bridge, at about 30 degrees to the horizon (at location 33° 57' 15" S, 151° 09' 48" E).

The object was noiseless and looked like a metallic upturned saucer with a dome on top. The flat circular bottom had a ring of red lights inside the rim. Lights within this ring were fluctuating 'like the car lights [strip indicator lights for braking] on the *Knight Rider* TV show'. There was a separate bright amber-red light blinking on top of the dome.

The area is directly south of Kingsford Smith Airport (Sydney's major Domestic and International airport). The Operations Centre and control tower for the airport are situated on the eastern bank at the river mouth, directly opposite. There was a blue rotating light on the control tower itself, slowly flashing like a police car light (this light is not usually switched on). There appeared to be dim lights on inside the Control Tower itself and several people moving around the observation deck. Mrs C and her two daughters watched the hovering object for about 10 minutes trying to work out what it was.

Mrs C then called to her husband who was standing 5-10 metres west of her, closer in to the bridge. She asked



him to 'Look at this thing hovering above the bridge'. He joined the family group for a better view of the object. At first he thought it was some sort of a gimmick, but it did not have the wing lights for a plane or the tail light for a helicopter.

Mr C estimated the motionless object to be 45-50 metres above the level of the riverbank, some 35 degrees up and 80 metres away). He described the object as having an oval ring of rotating red lights with one blinking red light above. He estimated it was about two cars widths in diameter (approximately 7 metres)

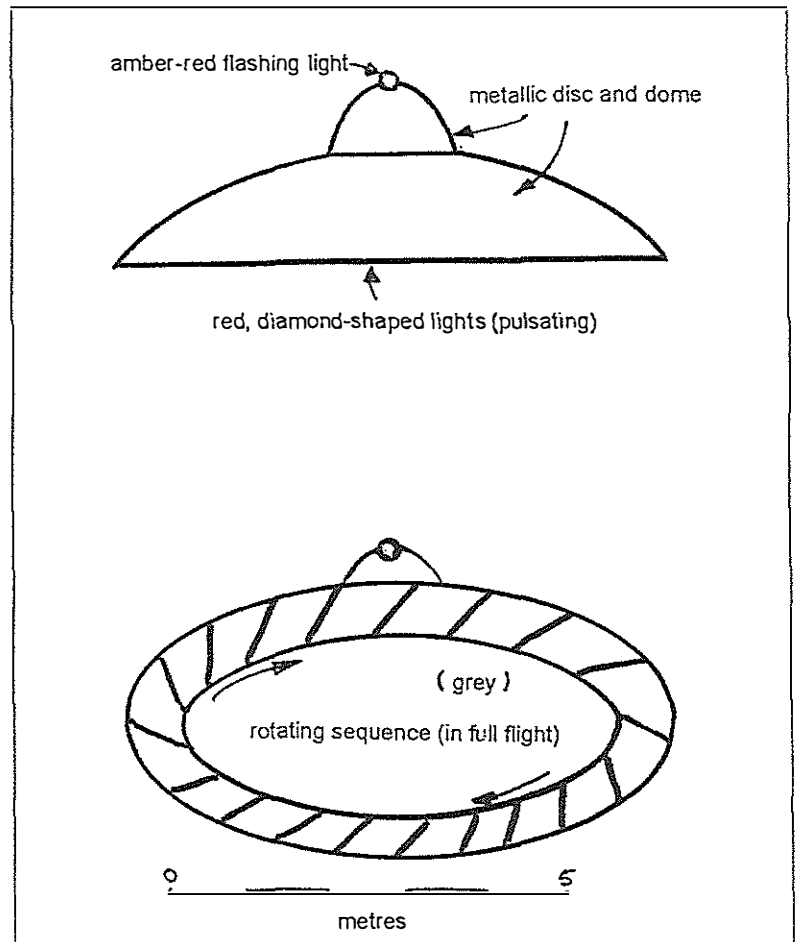
Soon after Mr C joined the group, the object pitched over about 45 degrees away from them, so that they could clearly see its round base. The red lights making up the circle around the bottom edge were diamond-shaped, with well-defined edges.

As the object flipped, the slowly flashing light on the control tower sped up and an alarm sounded (a series of very loud beeps).

All of the lights on the object became brighter; the ring of red lights pulsated faster, as did the amber-red light on the dome. Mr C thought that this was unusual, for the top light should not have been visible to them from their position once the object pitched over. 'The dome must have been higher than I first thought', he said.

The object then started to move off noiselessly and slowly 'at about 40 kph — the speed of a slow helicopter' (Mr C) north-north-eastwards, towards Sydney's Central Business District (CBD). It travelled at an angle of about 40 degrees overall, only slightly above the angle at which it had first been seen. (This path would have taken it directly between the Domestic and International terminals, possibly some 700 metres up and then on beyond, slightly west of the Harbour Bridge.

While still close up, the witnesses noticed that the object's movement was not smooth or continuous. It moved er-



atically, following a step-like path, in a series of little jumps.

Once the object moved away, the alarm on the Control Tower stopped, and the blue light slowed down once more. After 7-10 minutes, the object had levelled off (an effect due to perspective?) but was still just visible as a single red blinking light high above the CBD.

The C family were surprised that although other people around them saw the object, they seemed a bit stunned and did not want to take much interest in what had happened. They also noticed that there were no reports of the incident in Sydney newspapers the following day.

When they tried to phone the Control Tower at Sydney Airport, they were told that nothing unusual had been reported, and that 'the Tower was probably on automatic and not manned anyway'. □

Review: *UFO Research in Australia and New Zealand*

UFO Research in Australia and New Zealand costs \$34.00, including postage, and is available from Dynamo House Pty Ltd, PO Box 110, Richmond Vic 3121)

This 'digitised book' is designed to run as a series of about 800 searchable or printable screen files ('pages') on your IBM-compatible PC. It is provided in a compressed file format on two 5-inch disks with an accompanying 12-page A5 booklet and has been painstakingly put together by Vlad Godic, Pony Godic, and Keith Basterfield of UFORA South Australia.

You may have seen it demonstrated at *The UFO Mystery* seminar in Sydney in September 1991.

The 'book' is a compilation of material provided UFORA by a number of Australian investigators, and by New Zealander John Knapman. (Any funds raised from sales will go to UFORA to help them with their continuing investigations.)

You'll have to check first whether your IBM-compatible has enough disk space and grunt to do the job of running the book effectively (it works extremely well on a 286 or a 386!). My ancient PC has a few eccentricities and insufficient storage capacity to cope with the fully expanded text files, so I've only been able to get a good look at the book recently.

There are very few errors in the actual information provided. As a test, I checked several of the more obscure references (some of the New Zealand material) with original accounts and did find a couple of misplaced digits

— these are probably typos that got missed in the final edit of the transcript.

Drawbacks

Generally, I have only minor problems with the book:

- ☐ the editors have barely edited what people have provided, and you get a range of writing styles and densities, data and opinion, running on from one another. This gives the book a lack of unity or purpose — its very much a book written by a committee. While it's difficult to see how this could have been avoided, a better brief to contributors specifying what was required could have helped.
- ☐ the final product may not be as balanced as the introductory comments of the editors indicate. Some viewpoints seem to have been dealt with more completely than others. For example, the Mun-drabilla/Knowles material covers the UFORA point of view very well, but is short on the better-known VUFORS material.
- ☐ until you get to know the operating system for running the book, it seems a bit clunky (running hints for the system are minimal, and will confuse computer-illiterate users.) However, the final result is still well worth persisting with

- ☐ the book material is very good on text (the major strength of present computer technology) but short on visuals in what is mostly a visual phenomenon. Of course, a bigger booklet would have made the product much more expensive.

Benefits

The slight disadvantages are more than balanced by the advantages:

- ☐ a large amount of detailed information is provided in a small volume, and at a very reasonable price
- ☐ the simple search and print functions are surprisingly effective and make browsing and cross-referencing easy. UFO literature is usually badly indexed (if at all) so this easy access is a tremendous plus for serious UFO researchers
- ☐ Once mastered, UFORA's technology is essentially simple and effective. I would like to see this information format used or made available to other UFO groups so they can prepare and exchange their own detailed material in bulk, and (preferably) in a standard format.

UFO Research in Australia and New Zealand is an idea and a book whose time has come, and UFORA is to be congratulated for this innovation. I look forward to the sequel. *B Dickeson*